

DISCOVER YOUR

China





Welcome to China Holidays



Welcome to my homeland and the land of my ancestors. I almost envy those of you who have not yet been to China as the surprises and pleasures of my country are still yours to discover, whilst for those of you who have already been, there are still so many more riches to savour – the rural charms of the minority villages in the west, sacred mountains inhabited by dragons and gods, nomadic life on the grasslands of Tibet and Inner Mongolia, along with a wealth of ancient temples and exquisite gardens spread across the country. China is my country and it brings me great joy to share her glories with you.

We were immensely proud to be a Queen's Award winner. We are an independently owned and managed company, founded in 1997, specialising in providing beset value travel arrangements to China only. Therefore we can offer you a highly personalised service with my colleagues in London and Beijing working hard to ensure you have an unforgettable, high quality and value-for-money holiday. It is because of our dedication to providing this that we have managed to prosper in one of the most competitive industries in the world.

For thousands of years China has been the mysterious Middle Kingdom, the fabled land between heaven and earth, steeped in legends, enthralling travellers and explorers who undertook the most gruelling journeys to discover for themselves this exotic civilisation. Nowadays, travelling is easier but the allure of China remains the same. We at China Holidays have the in-depth understanding, knowledge and passion needed to create some of the best journeys by bringing together authentic cultural experiences and imaginative itineraries, combined with superb service and financial security.

On the following pages you will find details of our new and exciting range of China Holidays, ranging from classic itineraries to in-depth regional journeys and themed holidays, which mix the ever-popular sights with the unusual. It is my heartfelt wish that in these pages you find inspiration to go and discover this fascinating and endlessly diverse country for yourself.

Stephanie Cheng
Managing Director



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Why choose China Holidays?

There is so much more to China than her iconic highlights, and we at China Holidays understand how to make your tour more than just a checklist of 'must-sees'. From the epic to the intimate, each one of our tours reveals the quintessential China of yesterday and today, whether it is your first visit or your fifth.

Should you wish to travel individually rather than in a group, you can tailor-make arrangements to suit your own interests and have your own car, driver and guide – any tour in our brochure can be adapted into a private journey, or you can create your own itinerary.

CLASSIC TOURS

Our popular Classic tours (see pages 7-9) are ideal for the first-time visitor to China – tried and tested epic itineraries that have been honed to perfection over the years and dotted with authentic touches that other similar tours lack.

YANGTZE TOURS

For many guests, a cruise on the Yangtze River through the fabled Three Gorges is an essential feature of any tour to China, and we have therefore selected a range of 3, 4 and 8-night 5★ Yangtze River Cruises (see pages 10-21) that are a synthesis of the grandeur of the ever-changing scenery, and a sense of tranquility and comfort.

DELUXE TOURS

We have two Deluxe tours (see pages 19-23) to cater for those who would like an added measure of luxury on their holiday, featuring the renowned 5★ historical and contemporary hotels and a 5★ river cruiser.

REGIONAL TOURS

Our Regional tours (see pages 25-39) focus on specific regions including Tibet, Sichuan, and the Silk Road, allowing a more leisurely and focused exploration of that region's culture, history and sights, providing insights into the part it plays in the vast tableau of China today.

THEMED TOURS

Our Themed tours (see pages 41-47) are sought-after experiences by the seasoned visitor, imaginative and unique arrangements that allow clients not only to indulge their own interests – such as birdwatching, cookery, gardens – but also enabling them to gain a more intimate understanding of China herself.

PICK & MIX TOURS

Towards the back of the brochure (see pages 48-49) we have a pick & mix selection of hotels in the major centres and also a sample of one-day tours in each destination, which are perfect for business travellers or those who have just a short time in China.



THE GREAT WALL

GREAT VALUE LUXURY AND BUDGET TOURS

We have a wide range of tours to suit every budget. Some clients are perfectly comfortable in reasonably-priced accommodation in order to maximise other expenditure on their travels, whereas others demand more facilities and luxury at their hotels or want to tailor-make their own tours. Whatever your preferences, the price covers nearly everything and is considered good value for money for the duration of the tour, the standard of accommodation and the included features. It is a principle we apply irrespective of whether you are looking for a budget or a luxury tour – the price should always be fair, sensible and justifiable.

SMALL GROUP SIZES

We offer a highly personalised service to our clients and this extends into the tour itself where we believe that small group tours provide a happy mix of conviviality and individual attention. Group sizes therefore are limited to just 20 clients. All groups larger than 10 are accompanied by an experienced tour manager, groups smaller than 10 have local guides in every destination.



GIANT PANDA AND CUB



FORBIDDEN CITY

EXTRA-SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS ON EVERY TOUR

All our tours feature something a little bit different, activities often passed over by other operators. In Beijing we take you for a Peking Duck dinner, a favourite dish of the Imperial Court, and on some tours you also attend a Kung Fu performance. In Shanghai perhaps see a spectacular Acrobatics show, and in Yangshuo we always include the bewitching open-air Impressions of Sanjie Liu *son et lumiere* show, performed by a cast of hundreds on rafts on a sheltered bay in the river. In Xian, the ancient capital of China, you can enjoy music and dance dating from the days of the Tang dynasty emperors. Sichuan 'face-changing' Opera is an intriguing performance in Chengdu, and you can even go wine tasting in the footsteps of the mythical Taoist Eight Immortals. Our clients always find these events add immeasurably to the enjoyment of their holiday.



TERRACOTTA ARMY

OUR HOTELS

The hotels we use on the majority of our tours are good 4* or 5* hotels that offer comfort, a good location and a reasonable price as we believe these are the most important factors for the majority of our clients. It is worth noting however that sometimes in more far-flung regions we use the best hotels available, but often the accommodation does not match that in the larger cities. This is the case when travelling to parts of Tibet, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou, Guiyang and Xinjiang where facilities are a good deal more basic than in more developed parts of China, but the splendours of the scenery, the significance of the monuments and the overall richness of the experience more than compensate for any short-term inconveniences.

INCLUDED MEALS

Most meals are included in the tour price. Lunches are usually included as on most days we are sightseeing or travelling and it is simply more practical to arrange a lunch for everybody to maximise time available for the important activities of the day. Evenings are sometimes left free to allow clients to choose their own restaurant and cuisine. Where dinners are included they often give an opportunity to sample local specialities such as Peking Duck in Beijing, Lu Cai in Shandong and so on, and they will also include a soft drink or local beer. Meals that are included are marked in the tour itineraries as **B** (Breakfast), **L** (Lunch) and **D** (Dinner).

We had a wonderful trip to China, the weather was not particular kind to us, but it was all so wonderfully different. Our guide Sally was just perfect and charming, she looked after us very well and we seemed to get on really well... The arrangements that you made all went very smoothly, thank you so much, for arranging things for us. If we were to visit China again, we would have no hesitation in using China Holidays.

C. Ellis, Oxfordshire

What a lovely holidays you organised for us and our 4 companions, it was perfect!

On behalf of Chris and I would like to thank you for the lovely holidays you organised. The organisation was well done and we felt very secure at all times, if we were to return to China, we will definitely go with China Holidays.

A. Soymie, Chiswick

We had a brilliant holiday. Everything went according to plan. The organisation was fantastic. All the guides are professional

and helpful and all the hotels were excellent and well situated. Thank you for your hard work in organising this holiday for us.

W. Smith, York

My wife and myself thoroughly enjoyed our holiday in China and it was down to your company for organizing it and your excellent tour guides in China for making it so memorable whilst we were there.

J. McLean, Spain

This China Holiday without doubt superb value for money. The organization was brilliant. ... Well done China Holidays, no other company could have given the value for money holiday that you gave us. We wish you every success in the future.

G. Jones, Wiltshire

The Taiwan tour in two weeks is ambitious but is a fascinating introduction to a country that is really little known... The itinerary is a good mix of history, culture, gastronomic and

scenic experiences... All flights, accommodation and itinerary worked without a hitch. Thank you for a really enjoyable and valuable two weeks.

J. Drake, Hertfordshire

All in all we really enjoyed the holiday. I thought the itinerary was excellent. The guides were knowledgeable, helpful and a pleasure to be with.

R. Swain, Nottinghamshire

Everything went perfectly, like clockwork... Our guides were all brilliant and so willing to make sure our holiday went well...

The hotels were all super. Apart from Beijing we were upgraded to suites, all with fantastic views.

So pleased we got to see the Impression show at Yangshuo...

Absolutely stunning and we had a lovely clear sky...If we ever

manage to get back to China I would have no hesitation in booking with China Holidays and certainly would recommend to friends or anyone else considering using this company.

P. Cohen, East Ayrshire

PRICES FROM
£1750



CLASSIC TOURS

Taste of China

11 days – Beijing, Xian, Guilin, Shanghai

There is so much to recommend this fascinating and great value tour. In addition to the timeless images of Beijing, Xian and Shanghai, we have added a stay in Guilin with an enchanting cruise along the Li River and a musical spectacle, performed by a cast of hundreds on the river itself.



DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING

On arrival in Beijing transfer to the 4★ *Novotel Xinqiao Hotel* for three nights. Enjoy the welcome dinner tonight.

DAY 3 BEIJING B L D

Walk along one of the most dramatic sections of the **Great Wall of China** that snakes across the rugged mountain landscape. Also tread along the **Sacred Road**, the road to heaven, that leads to the **Ming Tombs** where the emperors are buried. Back in the city, enjoy Beijing's most popular dish, a traditional **Peking Duck dinner**.

DAY 4 BEIJING B L D

From **Tiananmen Square** enter the **Forbidden City**, the imperial palace, and gaze around the grand ceremonial halls and peek into the private family quarters. Later stroll through the elegant gardens of the **Summer Palace** that were laid out for the empress with no expense spared.

Fly out to China early to visit **Chengde** where the Emperors of China had their beautiful summer palace, high in the cool hills. Visit the palace, gardens and eight outer temples of the **Mountain Retreat**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Drive from Beijing to Chengde via the Great Wall, three nights at the 4★ *Yunshan Hotel* with breakfast, train back to Beijing. Price from £355 per person twin shared.

DAY 5 XIAN B L D

Visit the magnificent red and gold **Temple of Heaven** that was built for the Emperor, the son of Heaven, to make sacrifices for a good harvest, then fly to Xian for two nights at the 4★ *Bell Tower Hotel*.

DAY 6 XIAN B L D

See the 7,000 **Terracotta Soldiers** that have stood guard over China's first emperor for over 2,200 years, and they still stand in battle formation in giant exhibition halls erected around the pits where they were discovered in the 1970s. This afternoon see Xian's immense **City Wall** complete with towers and battlements, and tonight we are guests at the **Tang Dynasty** show, an enchanting performance of music and dance from another era.

DAY 7 GUILIN B L D

Visit Xian's first-class **Shaanxi Provincial Museum** where 300,000 objects from every dynasty since a thousand years before Christ are displayed. Fly to Guilin and the 4★ *Guilin Bravo Hotel* for two nights.

DAY 8 YANGSHUO B L D

Morning cruise along the **Li River** to Yangshuo through poetic rural landscapes where karst mountains rise steeply from the river valley, their peaks wreathed in mist, and below, oxen ploughing the rice paddies. Time for shopping at Yangshuo's handicrafts market before a spectacular open-air **son et lumiere** show, then return to Guilin.

DAY 9 SHANGHAI B L D

Visit the extraordinary **Reed Flute Cave** with its dramatic stalagmites and stalagmites, before flying to Shanghai and the 4★ *Shanghai Ocean Hotel* for two nights. Tonight watch an amazing **Acrobatic show**, and marvel at the skill and daring of the performers.

DAY 10 SHANGHAI B L D

Admire the very best of China's treasures at the **Shanghai Museum** and later stroll through **Yuyuan Garden**, an oasis of calm and beauty in the midst of the bustling city. Visit **Jade Buddha Temple** with its white jade statues and great incense burners, later stroll along the **Bund**, Shanghai's riverside promenade with futuristic skyscrapers on one bank and grand 19th century European architecture on the other.

DAY 11 DEPART CHINA B

Fly from Shanghai via Beijing to London Heathrow with Air China.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Visit 6 **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

View stunning **Acrobatic, son et lumiere** and **Tang Dynasty** shows

Visit the superb **Shaanxi Provincial** and **Shanghai Museums**

Cruise the **Li River**



TAILOR-MAKE THIS TASTE OF CHINA TOUR

SUPPLEMENT FROM £325

If you prefer to travel in a private group or to go at your own pace spending more time in one particular city perhaps, our tailor made tours are the perfect answer. Travel with your own personal chauffeur and English-speaking guide, available for any group size. Just call and ask our tailor-made team on **020 7487 2999** to help you create your own Taste of China tour.

For reservations please call **020 7487 2999**

China HOLIDAYS



China Highlights

14 days – Beijing, Xian, Guilin, Yangshuo, Shanghai, Suzhou, Beijing

Taking you far beyond the traditional 'highlights' of the classic Imperial Triangle of Beijing, Xian and Shanghai, this tour ventures further afield, to explore the exquisitely manicured gardens of Suzhou and to relax in breathtakingly lovely Guilin and Yangshuo.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Visit the unique **Jiuxian Garden Village**

Watch amazing **Acrobatic, son et lumiere** and **Tang Dynasty** shows

Visit Suzhou's **exquisite gardens**

Cruise the **Li River**

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING

On arrival in Beijing transfer to the 4★ *Novotel Xinqiao Hotel* for three nights.

DAY 3 BEIJING (B L D)

Walk along one of the most dramatic sections of the **Great Wall of China** that snakes across the rugged mountain landscape. Also tread along the **Sacred Road**, the road to heaven, that leads to the **Ming Tombs** where the emperors are buried. Back in the city, enjoy Beijing's most popular dish, **Peking Duck**.

DAY 4 BEIJING (B L D)

From **Tiananmen Square** enter the **Forbidden City**, home to the Emperors for 500 years, and gaze around the grand ceremonial halls and peek into the private family quarters. Later stroll through the elegant formal gardens of the **Summer Palace**, and admire the famous **Marble Boat**.

DAY 5 XIAN (B L D)

Visit the magnificent red and gold **Temple of Heaven** that was built for the Emperor, the son of Heaven, to make sacrifices for a good harvest,



BEIJING

then fly to Xian for two nights at the 4★ *Bell Tower Hotel*.

DAY 6 XIAN (B L D)

See the 7,000 **Terracotta Soldiers** that have stood guard over China's first emperor for over 2,200 years, and see Xian's immense **City Wall** complete with towers and battlements. Tonight we are guests at the **Tang Dynasty** show, an enchanting performance of **music and dance** from another era.

DAY 7 GUILIN (B L D)

Visit Xian's first-class **Shaanxi Provincial Museum** where 300,000 objects from every dynasty since a thousand years before Christ are displayed. Fly to Guilin and the 4★ *Guilin Bravo Hotel* for the night.

DAY 8 YANGSHUO (B L D)

Morning cruise along the **Li River** to Yangshuo through poetic rural landscapes where karst mountains rise steeply from the river valley, their peaks wreathed in mist. Time for shopping at Yangshuo's handicrafts market before the spectacular open-air **son et lumiere** show. Stay two nights at the 5★ *Green Lotus Hotel*.

DAY 9 YANGSHUO (B L D)

Explore the rural charms of Yangshuo today, first climb **Moon Hill** for fantastic views, and see the 1,400-year-old **Big Banyan Tree**. Also visit **Jiuxian Garden Village**, undergoing a unique conservation and regeneration project to preserve its culture and architecture.

DAY 10 SHANGHAI (B L D)

Drive back to Guilin and visit the extraordinary **Reed Flute Cave** with its dramatic stalagmites and stalactites, before flying to Shanghai and the 4★ *Shanghai Ocean Hotel* for three nights.

DAY 11 SHANGHAI (B L D)

Admire China's ancient treasures at the **Shanghai Museum** and later stroll through **Yuyuan Garden**, an oasis of calm and beauty. Then visit **Jade Buddha Temple**, stroll along the **Bund** and watch an amazing **Acrobatic** show tonight.

DAY 12 SUZHOU (B L D)

Take the train to Suzhou, described by Marco Polo as 'the Venice of the East', and visit two of its favourite classical gardens, the **Humble Administrator's**

Garden, and the **Garden of the Master of the Nets**. Admire exquisite handicraft at the **Silk Embroidery Institute** before returning to Shanghai.

DAY 13 SHANGHAI (B)

Enjoy your free day in Shanghai today.

DAY 14 DEPART CHINA

Fly from Shanghai via Beijing to London Heathrow with Air China.



YU GARDEN

Make the most of your holiday and add on a memorable four-night Yangtze River cruise through the Three Gorges aboard the 5★ *Century Cruise* in an outside cabin with fabulous meals, exciting excursions and an extra night in Beijing included, prices from £395 per person twin shared.

PRIVATE CHINA HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

SUPPLEMENT FROM
£355

If you would like to make this into a private tour just for you and your partner, friends or family, enjoying the benefits of travelling with your own chauffeur and English-speaking guide and choosing your own departure date, please call and ask our tailor-made team on **0207 487 2999** to make arrangements for your own perfect China Highlights tour.



PRICES FROM
£1895



CLASSIC TOURS

Enchanting China

15 days – Beijing, Xian, Nanjing, Wuxi, Suzhou, Shanghai, Hangzhou

This exceptional tour of China encapsulates, perhaps more than any other, the essence of this vast, ancient civilisation, with a wealth of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and a succession of authentic cultural experiences.



ZHUJIAJIAO

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING

On arrival in Beijing transfer to the 4★ *Novotel Xinqiao Hotel* for three nights stay.

DAY 3 BEIJING B L D

Walk along one of the most dramatic sections of the **Great Wall of China**. Also tread along the **Sacred Road** that leads to the **Ming Tombs** where the emperors are buried. Peking Duck dinner.

DAY 4 BEIJING B L D

From **Tiananmen Square** enter the **Forbidden City**, the imperial palace where the emperor and his thousands of ministers, slaves, concubines and eunuchs dwelt. Later stroll through the elegant gardens of the **Summer Palace** around **Kunming Lake**.

DAY 5 XIAN B L D

Visit the impressive circular **Temple of Heaven**, the symbolic meeting point of Heaven and Earth, then fly to Xian for two nights at the 4★ *Bell Tower Hotel*.

DAY 6 XIAN B L D

See the 7,000 **Terracotta Soldiers** that have stood guard over China's first emperor for over 2,200 years. Climb Xian's immense **City Wall** and enjoy the **Tang Dynasty Music and Dance** show.

DAY 7 NANJING B L D

View some of China's finest artefacts at the **Provincial Museum** - Neolithic ceramics painted with scenes of everyday life, bronze swords and statues, gold and silver artwork and ancient wall murals. Fly to Nanjing for 2 nights at the 4★ *New Century Hotel*.

DAY 8 NANJING B L D

See the almost majestic **Mausoleum of Dr. Sun Yat-sen**, the founder of the Republic of China, and visit the historical **Confucius Temple** where there are lots of

stalls selling local handicrafts and foods. Finally, relax by the island studded waters of **Xuanwu Lake**.

DAY 9 SUZHOU B L D

Today transfer to station for the high speed train to Wuxi, visit the exquisite waterside **Li Gardens** and the vast **Taihu Lake** with its flowers, trees, bridges and pagodas. Continue your tour to Suzhou, which is known as "Venice of the east". Staying two nights at 4★ *Suzhou Garden Hotel*.

DAY 10 SUZHOU B L D

Visit two of Suzhou's favourite classical gardens, the **Humble Administrator's Garden** and the **Garden of Cultivation**, part of the UNESCO Classical Gardens of Suzhou on the World Heritage List, followed by a visit to **Pan Gate**, the famous historical landmark in Suzhou. Stroll along **Guanqian Street**, one of the Four Most Famous Walking Streets in China later today.

DAY 11 SHANGHAI B L D

Drive to Shanghai, en-route visiting the **Zhujiajiao Watertown** which is renowned for its quaint ancient buildings and crisscrossing river. Take a short boat cruise on the river. After the tour, transfer to Shanghai for two nights at the superb 4★ *Shanghai Ocean Hotel*.

DAY 12 SHANGHAI B L D

Admire the very best of China's ancient treasures at the **Shanghai Museum**. Stroll through **Yuyuan Garden**, an oasis of calm and beauty in the midst of the bustling city, then visit the **Jade Buddha Temple**.

DAY 13 HANGZHOU B L D

Visit the **Bund** in the morning, an area on the banks of the Huangpu River that gives you a captivating riverside view of 52 skyscrapers and **Oriental Pearl Tower**. Take high speed day train to Hangzhou. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel for a two nights stay at the 4★ *Best Western Hotel*.

DAY 14 HANGZHOU B L D

A relaxing romantic morning cruise on the scenic **West Lake**, then visit a **traditional pharmacy** and an extravagant **Manor House** that belonged to a prosperous 19th century local businessman. Walk along the historic 'Culture' Street.

DAY 15 DEPART CHINA B

Transfer to the airport for your flight to London Heathrow via Beijing with Air China.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Visit 9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Take a romantic cruise on Hangzhou's West Lake

Visit the unspoilt water towns of Wuxi and Zhujiajiao

Climb Xian's ancient city wall

Tour beautiful gardens in Beijing, Wuxi, Suzhou and Shanghai

Extend your holiday with a three-night stay in Guilin and Yangshuo, visiting Reed Flute Cave, a Li River cruise, a scenic walk along the Yulong River and a fantastic son et lumiere show. Prices from £315 per person twin shared.



ZHUJIAJIAO

BESPOKE TOURS

SUPPLEMENT FROM
£615

You can adapt any tour in our brochure to create your own bespoke China Holiday. Simply call our expert team to tailor-make a tour just for you, and you can arrange to stay longer in any particular place, upgrade your hotels, add more meals or extra visits – whatever you choose. Enjoy a bespoke Enchanting China tour exclusively for you with your own chauffeur and guide, by calling **020 7487 2999**.

For reservations please call **020 7487 2999**

China HOLIDAYS

China's 'Golden Waterway'

The longest river in Asia, the Yangtze rises at around 16,000ft on a Tibetan plateau and journeys 4,000 miles across China to empty into the East China Sea at Shanghai. It is China's single most important natural asset for industry, transportation, irrigation and nowadays, hydroelectric power, and a third of China's population lives in its river basin.

THE THREE GORGES DAM

A plan to dam the Yangtze and thereby put an end to flooding, improve navigation along the notoriously dangerous stretches through the Three Gorges, and to produce hydroelectric power was mooted in 1919 by Sun Yat-sen, the founder of the Chinese republic, but construction did not actually start until 1994. The dam itself is about a thousand miles from Shanghai, near Yichang, and is 7,761ft long, 594ft high, with a 370-mile long reservoir that encompasses the scenic Three Gorges. At the time of writing, May 2011, the 32nd and final turbine of the world's largest hydroelectric plant is ready for testing, and will shortly thereafter be completed. The dam will also have a ship lift able to raise a 3,000 ton ship in 30-40 minutes, due by 2014. There are currently 2 ship locks measuring 918ft long by 114ft wide and 16ft deep, and it takes around 4 hours to go through the 5 levels.



EFFECTS OF THE DAM

Freight along the Yangtze has increased dramatically as the river is deeper, wider and therefore safer, and can take larger vessels further, reducing shipping costs and reducing environmental impact from coal burning. The risk of serious flooding has been reduced, according to estimates, from once every decade to once every century.

Since the water level rose by around 450ft within the 370-mile long reservoir in which the scenic Three Gorges are located, the landscape has undoubtedly changed - however, since the height of the mountains that line the banks is up to 4,300ft, the actual difference is not as noticeable as might be initially thought. There have been additional benefits to cruise passengers - some of the smaller tributaries of the Yangtze have now been opened up to navigation by larger cruise vessels, and other sights, such as the mountaintop temple at White Emperor City which used to involve an exhausting climb to reach, is now much easier to visit. Furthermore, travelling through the new locks and seeing the dam are actually new highlights of the cruise for many guests.

This ambitious engineering project has however been controversial from the start, with 1.3 million people being relocated, farming land, towns, villages and historical sites destroyed, and suspected dangers to the environment.



THE THREE GORGES

The Three Gorges are Qutang, Wuxia and Xiling, and each is composed of several lesser gorges often named after legends or folk tales of gods and heroes, or simply of the fancied resemblances of the mountains alongside to animals or household objects - Rhinoceros Viewing the Moon for example.

QUTANG GORGE

5 miles long, the shortest but also the most scenic section. At its narrowest points, sometimes no more than 165 feet wide, the perpendicular cliffs force the river to rush through, making it fast flowing and dangerous.

WU (WITCHES') GORGE

28 miles long, a seemingly endless number of cloud-draped canyons so high that the sun is hardly visible, giving the strange peaks a fairytale aspect - legend has it that a goddess and her 11 handmaidens were transformed into the mountains and help sailors navigate the treacherous waters below.

XILING GORGE

The longest, 45 miles of rapids and shoals that claimed thousands of lives throughout history, nowadays tamed by the dam.

THE LESSER THREE GORGES

Emerald, Misty and Dragon Gate are found along the Danning River, a tributary of the Yangtze at the western end of Wu Gorge. They are reached on small boats, the better to enjoy the lush, green scenery with 'Cloud and Mist' tea flourishing on the steep cliffs, the chatter of monkeys and the fish swimming in the clear waters. Shennong Stream at the eastern end of Wu Gorge also has clear, tranquil waters reached on small sampans.

Yangtze Cruises

A cruise along the Yangtze River is a legendary journey, a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and that is why China Holidays selects the best Yangtze cruise fleet for you!



CENTURY CRUISE

Century has been cruising the Yangtze for 8 years, honing its itineraries, rigorously training its staff, and perfecting the 5★ comforts on board.

Century boasts the newest fleet on the Yangtze, all built since 2003 with guests' comfort and enjoyment in mind, so the emphasis is on natural light and ensuring there are glorious river views at every turn. All Century ships have a sleek and elegant exterior, and an impressive Grand Atrium that brings sunlight and a feeling of space right into the heart of the ship. All have either a sundeck bar or panoramic views from the a la carte restaurant, and most have outside, glass-sided lifts too.

Century Cruises makes a commitment to guests with eight key distinctions that characterize its cruise experiences: Five-star fleet, Stylish Public Spaces, Culinary Wonders, World-Class Accommodations, Personalized Service, In-Depth Discoveries, Cultural Integrity & Authenticity and Environmental Stewardship.

The company's innovations include introducing the world's leading engine, safety, security and environmental technologies and practices to the Yangtze; scenic, exterior elevators on ships; new all-suite Executive Levels (on Century Paragon and Century Legend) that feature additional stateroom amenities as well as a private à la carte restaurant, bar and reception area and more.

VICTORIA CRUISE

Victoria has become the Yangtze's preeminent cruise line because of the quality of their fleet and their outstanding service. Victoria Cruises own and operate the Yangtze's largest five-star fleet which are regularly refurbished and upgraded. There are seven ships, the Victoria Anna, Grace, Jenna, Katarina, Lianna, Selina and Sophia, each managed by an experienced western cruise director supported by a team of knowledgeable river guides and a well-trained, multi-lingual crew. All seven of Victoria's ships feature private balconies in every stateroom and have been rated five stars by the China National Tourism Administration-its highest rating.

New York-based Victoria Cruises was the first western company to operate ships on the river and has been perfecting the art of Yangtze cruising since 1994. It has a great track record, with over one million satisfied passengers have sailed with them. In addition to the popular cruises through the scenic Three Gorges between Chongqing and Yichang, Victoria continues to offer extended cruises between Chongqing and Shanghai, featuring interesting stops at Wuhan, Jiuhuashan (or Huangshan) and Nanjing.

Victoria Cruise takes great pride in their "software" - the exceptional service provided by their staff, which includes expert western cruise directors, knowledgeable river guides, a top-rated culinary program featuring Chinese, American and European dishes and their very accommodating and well-trained local crew.



For reservations please call **020 7487 2999**

China HOLIDAYS

PRICES FROM
£2195

The Land of Nine Dragons

15 days – Beijing, Xian, Chengdu, Yangtze Cruise, Shanghai, Suzhou, Beijing

Alongside the many ancient masterpieces such as the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Terracotta Warriors, are sprinkled numerous special experiences, like rare and delicate spices. Enjoy classical Chinese gardens and oriental cuisine, a walk along the Great Wall, acrobatic and kung fu shows, plus a breathtaking 3-night Yangtze River cruise.



DRAGON STONE

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING

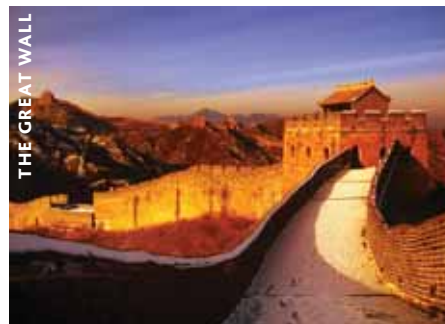
Arrive in Beijing for a three-night stay at the 5★ *Capital Hotel*.

DAY 3 BEIJING (B L D)

Visit **Tiananmen Square**, then enter the **Forbidden City**, the great palace that housed 24 successive emperors and their thousands of courtiers, eunuchs, concubines and slaves. Continue to **Jingshan Park**, the imperial gardens, for panoramic views and visit the magnificent red and gold **Temple of Heaven** that was built for the Emperor, the son of Heaven, to make sacrifices for a good harvest. Spectacular **Kung Fu** show tonight.

DAY 4 BEIJING (B L D)

Drive out to one of the best-preserved and most dramatic sections of the **Great Wall of China** at Mutianyu, and walk along the crenellated parapets that have snaked across the rugged mountain landscape for centuries. **Peking Duck** dinner tonight, an imperial favourite.



THE GREAT WALL

DAY 5 XIAN (B L)

Visit the imperial **Summer Palace** where you can wander through the formal gardens that were laid out by the extravagant Empress Cixi, before flying to Xian, the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and China's first capital. Stay two nights at the 4★ *Grand New World Hotel*.

DAY 6 XIAN (B L D)

Enjoy 7,000 **Terracotta Soldiers** have stood guard over China's first emperor for over 2,200 years, and now, painstakingly repaired along with their chariots and horses, they still stand in battle formation in giant exhibition halls erected around the pits where they were discovered in the 1970s. In the city visit the muslim quarter surrounding the imposing **Great Mosque**, and tonight enjoy a **Tang Dynasty Music and Dance** show.

DAY 7 CHENGDU (B L)

Visit Xian's **Provincial Museum** this morning, and uniquely for China Holidays' guests, the curators will let you touch some of the exhibits. After lunch, fly to Chengdu for an overnight stay at the 5★ *Chengdu Tibet Hotel*. Attend a performance of the local **Sichuan 'face-changing' opera** – a vivid and colourful spectacle of dance and music. See if you can spot how the actors swap their masks so quickly!

TAILOR-MAKE THIS LAND OF NINE DRAGONS TOUR

SUPPLEMENT FROM
£355

If you prefer to travel in a private group or to go at your own pace spending more time in one particular city perhaps, our tailor made tours are the perfect answer. Travel with your own personal chauffeur and English-speaking guide, available for any group size. Just call and ask our tailor-made team on **020 7487 2999** to help you create your own Land of Nine Dragons tour.





DAY 8 YANGTZE CRUISE **B L**

Visit the **Giant Panda Research Base** in the morning. Have lunch before transferring to the railway station for 2-hour direct train to the mountain city Chongqing. On board the **5★Century Paragon Cruise** for an unforgettable three-night cruise down the Yangtze River. Unpack in your spacious cabin and relax in luxury on your private balcony as the ship sets sail tonight.

DAY 9 YANGTZE CRUISE **B L D**

Relax and savour the extraordinary natural landscapes of the **Yangtze's Three Gorges**, and enjoy a shore excursion to visit **Snowy Jade Cave** where stalagmites and stalagmites as white as marble have created a fairytale grotto.

DAY 10 YANGTZE CRUISE **B L D**

Cruise through **Qutang Gorge**, the shortest and narrowest of the **Three Gorges**, and onwards beneath the forbidding, misty cliffs of **Wu (the Witches') Gorge**. There is an optional shore visit to the temple of **White Emperor City**, where it is believed white vapour in the shape of a dragon was seen rising from a nearby well, and another exploring one of the Yangtze's tributaries on an included scenic excursion by small boat along the picturesque **Shennong Stream**. Rejoin your ship to sail through what was once the most dangerous section of the river, **Xiling Gorge**, and progress through the five enormous ship locks that are part of the transformation of the Yangtze in recent years.

DAY 11 YANGTZE CRUISE, SHANGHAI **B L**

See the **Three Gorges Dam**, the largest and most notorious hydroelectric power station in the world. Disembark at Yichang, and fly to Shanghai for three nights at the **4★Shanghai Ocean Hotel**.

DAY 12 SHANGHAI **B L D**

Stroll through the 400-year-old **Yuyuan Garden**, with its elegantly landscaped ponds and pavilions, rockeries and statues, and visit **Jade Buddha Temple** whose two jade statues were carried all the way from Burma by Chinese monks on their backs. Continue to the superb **Shanghai Museum** that displays centuries of Chinese civilisation – precious ceramics, bronzes, rare jade sculptures, exquisite calligraphy, traditional folk costumes and furniture. Enthralling acrobatic show tonight.

DAY 13 SUZHOU **B L**



Drive to Suzhou, one of the region's beautiful 'water towns' and famed for its classical Ming-era gardens. Visit the **Humble Administrator's Garden**, and the 800-year-old **Panmen City Gate**, the only land and water gate left in the world. Later inspect some of the region's fine needlework at the **Silk Embroidery Institute** before returning to Shanghai.

DAY 14 SHANGHAI **B**

Enjoy your free day in Shanghai today.

DAY 15 DEPART CHINA **B**

Fly from Shanghai to London Heathrow via Beijing with Air China.

Please note that excursions on the Yangtze are subject to local weather and river conditions.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Visit less-crowded, one of the most dramatic sections of the **Great Wall of China**

Enjoy the company of the **Giant Pandas**

Enjoy four **astonishing and amazing shows**

Cruise the Yangtze River for 3 nights

Visit **Suzhou's exquisite gardens**

Why not fly from Shanghai to Hong Kong to stay two nights at the **4★Cosmopolitan Hotel** with breakfast and airport bus transfers included. Enjoy exploring this vibrant city independently – perhaps take the tram up the 1,200ft-high **Victoria Peak** for a panoramic view of the harbour and Kowloon, stroll around the Central district with its mix of colonial and contemporary architecture, or visit **Tsim Sha Tsui East's** wide range of museums and shops. Price from **£325** per person twin shared.



Splendours of the Yangtze

21 days – Shanghai, 8 – nights Yangtze Cruise, Chengdu, Guilin, Yangshuo, Xian, Beijing

A magnificent tour from the bright lights of Shanghai to the imperial legacy of Beijing, and incorporating an enchanting 8-night cruise along the Yangtze River aboard one of the finest vessels in China, the Victoria Empress. Discover the dynasties that shaped a civilisation and enjoy breathtaking landscapes on this leisurely journey.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Cruise the **Yangtze River** for 8 nights

Admire **Dazu Rock Carvings**

Visit **Giant Pandas** at Chengdu

Watch amazing **Kung Fu**, Tang Dynasty Music & Dance Show, and *son et lumiere* shows

Enjoy a relaxing **Li River cruise**



GIANT PANDAS

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly from London Heathrow aboard British Airways' non-stop flight to Shanghai.

DAY 2 SHANGHAI

On arrival in Shanghai transfer to the superb 4★ *Shanghai Ocean Hotel* for a two-night stay.

DAY 3 SHANGHAI (B L D)

At **Yuyuan Garden** admire a perfect example of a Chinese garden with enchanting views of pools, rockeries, trees and elegant pavilions. Continue to the **Jade Buddha Temple** where two milky-white statues are decorated with jewels, and visit **Shanghai Museum**. Here are ancient, precious artworks such as furniture and handicrafts from remote villages, sculptures, exquisite calligraphy and paintings, bronze vessels and porcelain. Later stroll along the **Bund**, Shanghai's riverside promenade.

DAY 4 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

Enjoy a hearty breakfast. Transfer to the cruise wharf to board the luxurious *Victoria Sophia* for a wonderful eight-night Yangtze Cruise. Unpack in your spacious stateroom and relax on your private balcony as the ship slowly departs upstream on one of the world's greatest journeys.

DAY 5 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

The ship calls at Nanjing, one of China's four ancient capitals. Tour Nanjing and see the **Ming museum**, a **Qing bazaar** and **Confucian temple**.

DAY 6 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

Scenic shore excursion to **Mount Huang**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This jagged, pine-clad mountain is named the **Yellow Mountain** after the legendary **Yellow Emperor** who ascended to heaven from here, and there are ancient steps hewn into the rock to prove it. Innumerable paths reward you with glorious views at every turn.

DAY 7 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

Visit the **Rare Stones Museum** at Wuhan this morning, or take a walking tour.

DAY 8 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

A free day, with lectures, fine dining and time to unwind.

DAY 9 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

Disembark to see the **Three Gorges Dam**, the largest hydroelectric power station ever. Progress through the five locks to cruise onwards through the once notoriously dangerous **Xiling Gorges**, myths and legends lurking around every rocky corner.

DAY 10 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

Enjoy the morning in **Wu Gorge**, the **Witches' Gorge**, before exploring a tributary today on a scenic excursion by small boat either through **Dragon Gate** to the **Lesser Three Gorges**, or to **Shennong Stream**. Rejoin your ship to sail beneath the forbidding, misty cliffs of **Qutang Gorge**, the shortest and narrowest of them all.

DAY 11 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

The ship continues her leisurely progress upstream, with a shore excursion to **Fengdu**, called the city of ghosts after a couple of hermits whose names said together sounded like 'king of the underworld'

DAY 12 CHENGDU (B L D)

Disembark after breakfast at Chongqing and drive to Chengdu. En-route admire the extraordinary religious sculptures at **Dazu**, home to many caves and grottoes in which are thousands of Buddha statues, most dating from between the 9th and the 13th centuries. Continue to Chengdu for an overnight stay at the 5★ *Tibet Hotel*.

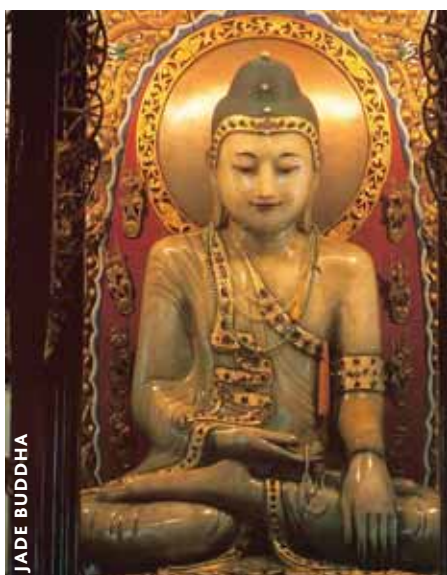
DAY 13 CHENGDU, GUILIN (B L)

Visit the **Giant Panda Research Base**, an institution that aims to protect the wild pandas of the region and increase the numbers of captive – it is home to over 80 pandas. Back in the city see the traditional courtyard houses of **Kuanzhai Lanes**, preserved from the **Qing dynasty**, before flying to Guilin for an overnight stay at the 4★ *Park Hotel*.

DAY 14 YANGSHUO (B L D)

Cruise from Guilin to Yangshuo along the **Li River**, through romantic, dreamy landscapes of mountains and mist, phoenix-tailed bamboo shrouding the river banks, farmhouses and fishing villages dotting the fields. Explore Yangshuo and this evening attend an open air *son et lumiere* show on a lake, with the mountains as a stunning backdrop. Stay two nights at the 5★ *Yangshuo Resort*.





JADE BUDDHA



LESSER THREE GORGES

DAY 15 YANGSHUO B L

Explore the rural charms of Yangshuo today, first climb Moon Hill for fantastic views, and see the 1,400-year-old **Big Banyan Tree**. Also visit **Jiuxian Garden Village**, undergoing a unique conservation and regeneration project to preserve its culture and Ming-dynasty architecture.

DAY 16 XIAN B L

Fly to Xian for a 2-night stay at the 4★ **Bell Tower Hotel**. This afternoon visit the first class **Shaanxi Provincial Museum** where 300,000 objects from every era of Chinese civilisation are displayed.

DAY 17 XIAN B L D

Visit 7,000 **Terracotta Soldiers** who have stood guard over China's first emperor for over 2,200 years, and they still stand in battle formation in giant exhibition halls erected around the pits where they were discovered in the 1970s. Return to the city centre to visit the immense **City Wall**, complete with towers and battlements. Tonight attend a performance of **Tang Dynasty Music and Dance**.

DAY 18 BEIJING B L D

Fly to Beijing for three nights at the 5★ **Capital Hotel**. This afternoon visit the magnificent red and gold **Temple of Heaven** that represents the meeting point of heaven and earth. Tonight enjoy a **Kung Fu show**, an enthralling performance of skill, drama and special effects.



YANGSHUO

DAY 19 BEIJING B L D

Walk the **Great Wall of China** at **Mutianyu**, a well-restored and less-crowded section with granite battlements and watchtowers looking over dramatic mountain ridges. Returning to Beijing, admire the manicured gardens of the imperial **Summer Palace**, their elegant bridges and pavilions and the astonishing **Marble Boat** constructed with no expense spared. **Peking Duck dinner**.

DAY 20 BEIJING B L

Tour **Tiananmen Square**, then enter the **Forbidden City**, the great palace that housed 24 successive emperors and their thousands of courtiers, eunuchs, concubines and slaves. Continue to **Jingshan Park**, the imperial gardens, for panoramic views.

DAY 21 DEPART CHINA B

Fly from Beijing to London Heathrow with British Airways.

Please note that itinerary and time on the Yangtze Cruise are subject to change, according to local weather and river conditions.

PRIVATE SPLENDOURS OF THE YANGTZE TOURPRICES FROM **£495**

If you would like to make this into a private tour just for you and your partner, friends or family, enjoying the benefits of travelling with your own chauffeur and English-speaking guide and choosing your own departure date, please call and ask our tailor-made team on **0207 487 2999** to make arrangements for your own perfect Splendours of the Yangtze tour.

Start your holiday early with a pre-tour stay in the delightful waterside town of Wuzhen West. Stay three nights in the characterful Shengting Town Hotel and enjoy guided tours of its many beautiful historical sights before meeting up with the main tour in Shanghai. Three nights with breakfast, lunch, dinner, transfers and two city tours from £495 per person twin shared.



FORBIDDEN CITY



For reservations please call **020 7487 2999**

China HOLIDAYS



Pandas, Palaces & Pagodas

22 days – Beijing, Xian, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Shanghai, Yangtze Cruise, Dazu, Chengdu, Guilin, Yangshuo, Beijing

This is the very finest tour to China, a succession of fabulous UNESCO World Heritage Sites, a 4-night luxury cruise along the legendary Yangtze River, and an intriguing detour to renowned Hangzhou and Suzhou, delightful gardens, world-class museums, kung fu and acrobatic shows, Sichuan Opera, Tang-era music and dance, and a unique son et lumiere show on water.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

See **Giant Pandas** in Chengdu

Cruise the **Yangtze River** for 4 nights

Admire the **ancient rock carvings** at Dazu

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING **D**

On arrival in Beijing transfer to the 5★ *Capital Hotel* for three nights. Welcome dinner tonight.

DAY 3 BEIJING **B L D**

See **Mao's mausoleum** and the **Monument to the People's Heroes** in Tiananmen Square, then walk across to the **Forbidden City**, home to China's 'celestial' emperors for over 500 years until the last one was evicted in 1924. Tour the lavishly decorated chambers and halls that a million workers created, then drive to **Jingshan Park** for panoramic views over Beijing. Enjoy a thrilling **Kung Fu** performance tonight.

DAY 4 BEIJING **B L D**

Walk along the **Great Wall of China** at its most dramatic but lesser-visited section, **Mutianyu**, where 22 watchtowers stand guard over the rugged terrain. Back in the city, stroll through the manicured gardens of the **Summer Palace** and admire its painted long corridor, seventeen-arch bridge and **Marble Boat**. Special **Peking Duck** dinner.

DAY 5 XIAN **B L**

Visit the **Temple of Heaven**, the meeting point of Heaven and Earth designed according to the ancient principles of numerology and symbolism. Fly to Xian to stay two nights at the 4★ *New World Hotel*.

DAY 6 XIAN **B L D**

Two centuries before Christ, China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, ordered the creation of an army to guard his tomb here in China's first capital, and 7,000 of these **Terracotta Warriors**, horses, chariots and weapons were unearthed in the 1970s and are on display. Later climb onto Xian's ancient **City Walls**, and tonight attend a special **Tang Dynasty Music and Dance** show.

DAY 7 HANGZHOU **B L D**

This morning, visit the **Shaanxi Provincial Museum**. Fly to Hangzhou, a city described by Marco Polo as "beyond dispute the finest and noblest in the world". Stay two nights at the 4★ *Best Western Meiyuan Hotel*.

DAY 8 HANGZHOU **B L**

Take a romantic cruise on **West Lake** with its landscaped banks, temples, pagoda and distant hills, then visit a traditional pharmacy and an extravagant manor house that belonged to a prosperous 19th century local businessman. Enjoy scenes from the olden days along **Qinghefang Street**.

DAY 9 SUZHOU **B L**

Drive through the **Yangtze Delta** to Suzhou, famous for its waterways, silk, gardens and beautiful girls. Visit the **Silk Embroidery Institute** to admire its skilled double-sided embroidery, and the **Panmen City Gate**, the only land and water gate left in the world. Stay overnight at the 4★ *Grand Garden Hotel*.





TERRACOTTA SOLDIER

DAY 10 SHANGHAI (B L D)

Learn about how the relationship between man and nature is expressed in Chinese landscaping at the exquisite **Garden of the Master of the Nets** and the **Humble Administrator's Garden**. Drive to Shanghai for two nights at the 4★ *Shanghai Ocean Hotel*, and stroll along the famous **Bund**, once the richest and most fashionable street in Asia.

DAY 11 SHANGHAI (B L D)

Relax in the poetic surroundings of **Yuyuan Garden**, an oasis of calm in the city, see the white jade statues at the **Jade Buddha Temple** and at the **Shanghai Museum**, arguably China's best, view superb displays of rare, ancient treasures. Later walk through the quaint and trendy district of **Xintiandi** and marvel at the skill and daring of **Acrobats** at an exhilarating show.

DAY 12 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

Fly to Yichang to embark on an utterly memorable **Yangtze River Cruise**, four nights aboard the luxurious *Century Paragon*. Unpack and settle into your spacious, comfortable cabin and from your private balcony watch the lights of Yichang disappear as you slowly glide up the **Yangtze**.

DAY 13 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

See the extraordinary **Three Gorges Dam** this morning, a vast construction 7,761ft long across the river to create the world's largest hydroelectric power plant. The *Century Paragon* makes her way through the five giant shiplocks before cruising into the dramatically beautiful **Xiling Gorge**.

DAY 14 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

Explore one of the Yangtze's tributaries, the **Daning River**, on a small boat through the lovely **Lesser Three Gorges**, and an optional shore excursion later is to the temple of the **White Emperor City**. Back on board, cruise through the mysterious and once notoriously dangerous **Qutang** and **Wu Gorges**.

DAY 15 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

Take a shore excursion at **Fengdu**, and enjoy the on-board activities and vistas of **Qutang Gorge**.

DAY 16 CHENGDU (B L D)

Disembark at Chongqing and drive to Chengdu via the spectacular rock carvings at **Dazu**, where thousands of Buddha statues and stone pictures line mountain caves. At Chengdu stay two nights at the 5★ *Tibet Hotel*.



GUILIN LI RIVER



SUZHOU

DAY 17 CHENGDU (B L)

Get close to one of the world's most adorable and endangered animals, at the **Panda Research Base** where the current status and future of giant pandas is the of great concern. The base supports both those animals living in the wild and also works on a successful breeding programme. Later, step back in time as you walk along **Kuanzhai Lanes**, a quaint and colourful part of town, and attend an intriguing and entertaining **Sichuan 'face-changing' Opera**.

DAY 18 GUILIN (B L)

Morning at leisure. Fly to Guilin for an overnight stay at the 4★ *Park Hotel*.

DAY 19 YANGSHUO (B L D)

A day of wonder and romance begins with a cruise along the lovely **Li River** whose landscapes of cloud-capped karst mountains, sparkling waters and green rice fields have inspired painters and poets since time immemorial. At Yangshuo browse the intricate handicraft stalls at **West Street**, before enjoying the spectacular *son et lumiere* show of a tragic love story. Stay two nights at the 5★ *Green Lotus Hotel*.

DAY 20 YANGSHUO (B L)

Take a gentle walk along the **Yulong River** – a major tributary of Li River – through charming, rustic scenery, and climb the marble steps up **Moon Hill** later to peer through the natural crescent-shaped hole at the peak, down through the wreaths of mist to a stunning panorama of mountains and river.

DAY 21 BEIJING (B)

Fly from Guilin to Beijing for an overnight stay.

DAY 22 DEPART CHINA (B)

Fly from Beijing to London Heathrow with Air China arriving on the same day.

Please note that excursions on the Yangtze are subject to local weather and river conditions.

After your tour fly to Hong Kong to stay two nights at the 4★ *Cosmopolitan Hotel* with breakfast and airport bus transfers included. Enjoy exploring this vibrant city independently – perhaps take the tram up the 1,200ft-high **Victoria Peak**, stroll around the **Central** district with its mix of colonial and contemporary architecture, or visit **Tsim Sha Tsui East's** wide range of museums and shops. Price from £325 per person twin shared.



CHENGDU

BESPOKE TOURS

SUPPLEMENT FROM

£595

You can adapt any tour in our brochure to create your own bespoke China Holiday. Simply call our expert team to tailor-make a tour just for you, and you can arrange to stay longer in any particular place, upgrade your hotels, add more meals or extra visits – whatever you choose. Enjoy a bespoke **Pandas, Palaces & Pagodas** tour exclusively for you with your own chauffeur and guide, by calling **020 7487 2999**.



Introduction to our Deluxe tours

We are pleased to present two superb tours on the following pages, Ultimate China and Deluxe Grand Tour, for those guests who would like to discover China whilst staying at some of the best hotels available.

ULTIMATE CHINA – SEE PAGES 20–21 / DELUXE GRAND – SEE PAGES 22–23



Most of the hotels on these tours are landmark 5★ hotels in great locations, such as the Grand Hotel in Beijing whose rooms actually overlook the rooftops of the Forbidden City and where visiting dignitaries and VIPs prefer to stay whilst in the capital, or the Sofitel in Xian which is one of China's first platinum 5★ hotels and certainly the finest in the whole region. In other destinations, such as in Yangshuo, we offer our guests the best available hotel, in this case, the lovely Yangshuo Resort, a chic, contemporary hotel but one thoroughly Chinese in style and inspiration, in charming surroundings nestling in landscaped gardens on the banks of the river. We also feature historical and contemporary 5* hotels on the Deluxe Grand Tours, and here guests can enjoy the tranquility, elegance and luxury for which these hotels are renowned.



Ultimate China

19 days – Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, Yangtze Cruise, Guilin, Yangshuo, Hong Kong

A tour fit for an emperor – 5★ hotels and a deluxe Yangtze River cruise through the breathtaking scenery of the Three Gorges, expertly combined with an in-depth exploration of the imperial sites of Beijing, Xian, and the old treasures of Shanghai, and further enhanced by the rural charms of Guilin.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

See the **Forbidden City** from your hotel room

Experience a luxurious 4-night **Yangtze Cruise**

Kung Fu, Acrobatic and *son et lumiere* shows

Climb Xian's ancient **City Walls**

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly from London Heathrow aboard British Airways' non-stop service to Beijing.

DAY 2 BEIJING D

Arrive in Beijing and transfer to the 5★ *Grand Hotel* for a three-night stay in rooms overlooking the rooftops of the **Forbidden City** itself. Welcome dinner.

DAY 3 BEIJING B L D

This morning head for **Tiananmen Square**, a vast expanse where half a million people can gather, overlooked by the **mausoleum of Chairman Mao** and the **Monument to the People's Heroes**. Walk into the **Forbidden City** to explore some of the thousands of halls, courtyards and pavilions of the imperial palace. Afterwards, stroll around **Jingshan Park**, once part of the palace gardens and beautifully laid out. Tonight enjoy an exhilarating performance of **Kung Fu**.

DAY 4 BEIJING B L D

Drive to a less-crowded section of the **Great Wall of China** at **Mutianyu**. Here, the wall winds across jagged mountain tops, and you can walk along a well-restored section for about a mile and a half, passing watchtowers and battlements, admiring the rugged scenery. Returning to Beijing, visit the manicured gardens of the **Summer Palace**, created by an ambitious minister to curry favour with the Empress Cixi with money intended for the navy. This evening enjoy a **Peking Duck dinner**, a speciality of the court of the Ming emperors.

DAY 5 XIAN B L

Visit the striking **Temple of Heaven**, its circular main building representing Heaven, its pillars representing the months, hours and seasons, and rectangles symbolising Earth. After admiring this masterpiece of Ming architecture fly to Xian, China's first capital and eastern terminus of the Silk Road, for a two-night stay at the 5★ *Sofitel Hotel*.

DAY 6 XIAN B L

Thousands of individually-crafted and near life-sized **Terracotta Warriors** still stand guard over the tomb of China's first emperor after 2,200 years, along with their clay horses, chariots and weapons. Back in the city centre walk along the ancient **City Walls**, 40ft high and up to 60ft thick, with a moat, ramparts, battlements and fortified gates.

DAY 7 SHANGHAI B L D

Fly to Shanghai to stay for two nights at the 5★ *Grand Central Hotel*. The famous Nanjing Road and the Bund are just a short stroll from the hotel. This afternoon, admire the **Jade Buddha Temple**, its beautiful white jade statues decorated with emeralds, diamonds and agates. Later, stroll along **the Bund**, passing grand European-style 19th century buildings on one side, and the futuristic skyscrapers of the Pudong district on the other. Tonight attend a spectacular **Acrobatic Show** and marvel at the skill and daring of the artists.

TAILOR-MAKE THE ULTIMATE CHINA TOUR

SUPPLEMENT FROM
£395

If you prefer to travel in a private group or to go at your own pace spending more time in one particular city perhaps, our tailor made tours are the perfect answer. Travel with your own personal chauffeur and English-speaking guide, available for any group size. Just call and ask our tailor-made team on **020 7487 2999** to help you create your own Ultimate China tour.





DAY 8 SHANGHAI (B L)

Step into the past today, exploring the delightful **Yuyuan Garden** that is one of China's most perfect examples of the art of landscaping, its ponds, pavilions, paths and plants carefully designed to create a series of unfolding views. This garden was laid out over 400 years ago by an official for his aged parents, and it has changed little since. Then visit the impressive **Shanghai Museum** that is home to an immense number of China's greatest ancient treasures - bronzes, ceramics, paintings, crafts, calligraphy, furniture and paintings. Spend the evening in the charming and fashionable **Xintiandi** district, whose characteristic *shikumen* buildings have been restored and now house restaurants and bars, galleries and boutiques.

DAY 9 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L)

Fly to Yichang and embark *Century Legend* for an unforgettable and luxurious four-night cruise through the most scenic sections of the **Yangtze Gorges**. Unpack in your spacious stateroom and relax on your private balcony as the ship sets off tonight.

DAY 10 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

This morning disembark to see the ambitious **Three Gorges Dam**, the largest hydroelectric power station ever, and the ship progresses through the five locks to cruise onwards through the once notoriously dangerous **Xiling Gorge**. Despite the higher water levels, Xiling remains dramatically beautiful, myths and legends lurking around every rocky corner.

DAY 11 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

Explore a tributary today on a scenic excursion by small boat through **Dragon Gate** to the **Lesser Three Gorges**. Rejoin your ship to sail beneath the forbidding, misty cliffs of **Wu Gorge** and **Qutang Gorge**, the shortest and narrowest of them all, with an optional shore visit to the temple of **White Emperor City**.

DAY 12 YANGTZE CRUISE (B L D)

The ship continues her leisurely progress upstream, with a shore visit to **Snowy Jade Cave** to admire its bizarre rock formations. Take part in the onboard activities, watch the scenery glide by and enjoy fine dining aboard *Century Legend*.



DAY 13 GUILIN (B L)

Disembark after breakfast at Chongqing and fly to Guilin, an impossibly beautiful region of karst mountains, rice fields and winding rivers. Stay overnight at the 5★ *Sheraton Hotel*.

DAY 14 YANGSHUO (B L D)

Take the renowned **Li River Cruise** to Yangshuo. The vistas from the boat are endlessly fascinating – the banks of the river are lined with swaying phoenix bamboo, women in coolie hats wash clothes and buffalo bathe, and in the distance are numberless limestone peaks shrouded in mist and covered in pine trees. On arrival in Yangshuo, explore the busy handicraft stalls along **West Street**, and check in to the 5★ *Yangshuo Resort* for a two-night stay in a deluxe room. Tonight attend a spectacular *son et lumiere* show, a dramatic open-air performance in a stunning setting.

DAY 15 YANGSHUO (B L)

Today explore **Silver Cave** inside one of the karst mountains, where a clear underground river wends its way past shimmering stalagmites and stalagmites. Later visit **Jiuxian Garden Village**, undergoing a unique conservation and regeneration project to preserve its culture and Ming-dynasty architecture.

DAY 16 HONG KONG (B)

Fly from Guilin to Hongkong for two nights in Harbour View Room at 5★ *Harbour Grand Kowloon Hotel*.

DAY 17 HONG KONG (B)

Free day.

DAY 18 DEPART CHINA (B)

Return flight to London Heathrow with British Airways, arriving in the morning of Day 19.

Please note that excursions on the Yangtze are subject to local weather and river conditions.

Extend your holiday in China with a unique experience – wine and beer tasting. Stay three nights in the Olympic city of Qingdao, with a day trip to sample the wines of Yantai including the famous Changyu red, and a visit to the Tsingtao Brewery, established by the Germans 100 years ago. Price from £295





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SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

See the Forbidden City **from your hotel room**

Visit avant-garde **798 Art Zone**

Cruise on the famous **West Lake** and the celebrated **Li River**

Visit less-crowded and most dramatic sections of **the Great Wall of China**

Experience vibrant **Hong Kong**

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with British Airways.

DAY 2 BEIJING D

Arrive in Beijing and transfer to the stylish 5★ *Grand Hotel* for a four-night stay in room overlooking the Forbidden City. Welcome dinner in the evening.

DAY 3 BEIJING B L

This morning head for **Tiananmen Square**, a vast, modern expanse overlooked by the mausoleum of Chairman Mao, the Monument to the People's Heroes, the Great Hall of the People and the National Museum of China. Explore the **Forbidden City** and some of its thousands of halls, courtyards and pavilions of the imperial palace that were home to the Emperors of China until the last was evicted in 1924. Afterwards, stroll around **Jingshan Park**, once part of the palace gardens and beautifully laid out with pavilions, fruit trees and flowers. Finally, visit the manicured gardens of the **Summer Palace** outside the city, created by an ambitious minister to curry favour with the Empress Cixi with money intended for the navy.



DAY 4 BEIJING B L

Today drive out of the city to a less-crowded section of the **Great Wall of China** at **Mutianyu**. Here, the wall winds across jagged mountain tops, and you can walk along a well-restored section for about a mile and a half, passing watchtowers and battlements, admiring the rugged scenery.

DAY 5 BEIJING B L

Visit the **Temple of Heaven**, its circular main building representing heaven, its pillars representing the months, hours and seasons, and rectangles symbolising Earth. Drive to an industrial suburb of Beijing, to a 1950s electronics factory that has been transformed into a contemporary artistic and cultural centre. This is **798 Art Zone** where avant-garde Chinese artists can exhibit their work, and the factory works very well for this purpose, with plenty of north light and a huge indoor space, complete with Maoist slogans on the walls – a fascinating contrast to the ancient imperial sights of Beijing.

DAY 6 SHANGHAI B

Take the fast train to Shanghai, a comfortable journey of around five and a half hours in first class seats. Stay in 5★ *Grand Central Hotel*, the famous Nanjing Road and the Bund are just a short stroll from the hotel.

DAY 7 SHANGHAI B L

Visit the superb **Shanghai Museum**, a striking modern building showcasing centuries of Chinese civilisation – precious ceramics, bronzes, rare jade sculptures, exquisite calligraphy, traditional folk costumes and furniture. Later, stroll through the 400-year-old **Yuyuan Garden**, with its elegantly landscaped ponds and pavilions, rockeries and statues that provide an oasis of tranquility and beauty. Visit **Jade Buddha Temple** whose two jade statues were carried all the way from Burma by Chinese monks on their backs.

DAY 8 HANGZHOU B L

Enjoy a day trip to Hangzhou, with a romantic cruise on the scenic **West Lake**, its banks dotted with temples, pagodas, pavilions and gardens. Visit a **traditional pharmacy** where you can learn more about Chinese medicine by viewing the exhibits in its museum and the demonstrations in the preparation hall, and also seek advice if you wish in what was considered the best pharmacy of the Qing





HONG KONG

era and which is certainly one of the finest buildings in Hangzhou. Also visit the extravagant manor house created by the founder of the pharmacy who filled his villa with exquisitely carved furniture and works of art. In the historic old town shop for silk, tea, hand-made fans and scissors.

DAY 9 XIAN **B L**

Fly to Xian, China's first capital and eastern terminus of the Silk Road, for a two-night stay at the 5★ *Sofitel Hotel Xi'an*. This afternoon tour Xian's immense **City Walls**, 60ft wide and 40ft high, complete with towers and battlements, a moat, a hundred ramparts and 18 fortified gates all along its 8 miles – a masterpiece of ancient military engineering.

DAY 10 XIAN **B L**

Visit 7,000 **Terracotta Soldiers** who've stood guard over China's first emperor for over 2,200 years, and now, painstakingly repaired along with their chariots and horses, they still stand in battle formation in giant exhibition halls erected around the pits where they were discovered in the 1970s. After touring the site, return to the city centre to visit the **Muslim Quarter** surrounding the imposing **Great Mosque**.

DAY 11 GUILIN **B L**

View some of China's finest artefacts at the **Provincial Museum** on a private tour of its treasures, prehistoric, stone age, bronze age and from every imperial dynasty up to the 19th century, such as neolithic ceramics painted with scenes of everyday life, bronze swords and statues, gold and silver artwork and ancient wall murals. Later, fly to Guilin, an impossibly beautiful region of karst mountains, rice fields and winding rivers, and stay three nights at the 5★ *Shangri La Hotel*.

DAY 12 GUILIN **B L**

Enjoy the **Li River Cruise** to Yangshuo, through romantic, dreamy landscapes of mountains and mist, phoenix-tailed bamboo shrouding the banks where women do their washing and oxen plough the fields behind, small fishing boats selling your freshly-caught lunch to the cooks on board your boat. Later visit **Jiuxian Garden Village**, undergoing a unique conservation and regeneration project to preserve its culture and Ming-dynasty architecture. Tonight attend a spectacular *son et lumiere* show, a dramatic performance on water with a cast of hundreds on bamboo rafts.



HANGZHOU



GUILIN

DAY 13 GUILIN **B L**

Learn about the production, preparation and health benefits of the special tea grown at the local **Research Institute**, once the exclusive tea garden for the Ming emperors. Also explore **Reed Flute Cave** inside one of the karst mountains, an enchanted forest of dramatically-illuminated stalagmites and stalagtites that have created bizarre natural sculptures.

DAY 14 HONG KONG **B**

Fly to Hong Kong for two nights at the *Shangri La Hotel* in Kowloon close to the famous **Victoria Harbour** – a fantastic base for your stay in this exhilarating city.

DAY 15 HONG KONG **B**

Free day to explore.

DAY 16 DEPART CHINA

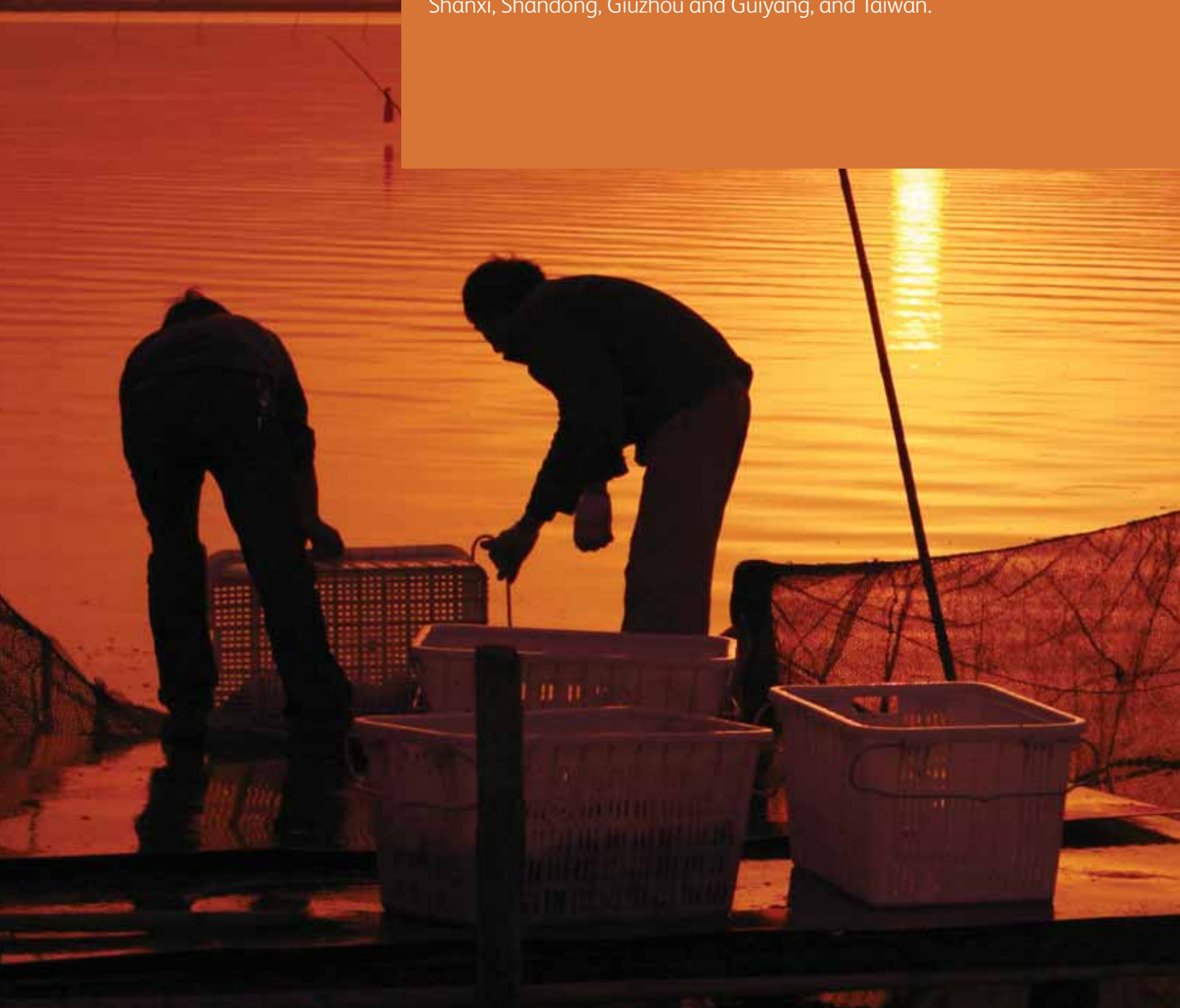
Fly non-stop to London Heathrow with British Airways, arriving in the morning of Day 17.



SHANGHAI PUDONG

Introduction to our Regional tours

For those guests who perhaps have already travelled to China and seen her most famous monuments and who would like to continue their explorations of this vast country on a more in-depth tour of specific regions, we have devised this remarkable range of unique tours to showcase China's distinctive and spectacular far-flung corners that are arguably even more rewarding to discover than her iconic highlights. The regions we have chosen as particularly exciting are Tibet, Sichuan, Yunnan, the Silk Road, Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, Shandong, Guizhou and Guiyang, and Taiwan.





THE HEAVENLY KINGDOM OF SICHUAN

Explore the traditions of the cheerful capital **Chengdu**, visit the sacred **Mount Emei**, the **Giant Buddha** at **Leshan** and the **Giant Panda Centre** at **Bifengxia**, and the immensely beautiful **Nine Village Valley** and **Yellow Dragon's Valley** – all of these are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

SEE PAGE 26



INNER MONGOLIA

Head north to the vast **grasslands** of **Inner Mongolia**, home to the once-fearsome **Mongol nomads** who still tend their horses and sheep under the blue skies. Admire the ancient relics of their culture, visit a modern dairy and stay overnight in a traditional **yurt**.

SEE PAGE 27



MINORITY VILLAGES

Tour through these provinces where most of China's ethnic minority people still live in tiny, isolated villages, farming the rice terraces their ancestors carved into the mountain sides, telling their stories, singing their old songs – living as their ancestors did.

SEE PAGES 28–29



TAIWAN

The beautiful island of **Taiwan** lies in the South China Seas and boasts some of the most spectacular scenery in Asia. Coupled with the priceless collection of art taken wholesale from **Beijing's Forbidden City** when the Japanese invaded, and on display in **Taipei**, this tour showcases the very best of the island.

SEE PAGE 30



CONFUCIUS AND BUDDHA

Explore the spiritual heritage of **Shandong province** where the three great religions of China are all vividly expressed. Climb sacred mountains to meet **Taoist deities**, visit the birthplace of **Confucius**, and admire **Buddhist temples**.

SEE PAGE 31



A TIBETAN EXPEDITION

Our superb expedition to **Tibet** travels by the new 'Roof of the World' train all the way from **Beijing** to **Lhasa** and continues by road through the ribbon of settlements along the valleys all the way to **Kathmandu** in **Nepal** – an epic journey.

SEE PAGES 32–33



PEARLS OF SHANXI PROVINCE

Revealing **Shanxi's** treasures, its fine, traditional architecture and stunning temples, the tour is named after the pearls that dragons invariably sport around their necks in Chinese art, the dragon symbolising the emperor, the pearls symbolising the celestial life, wisdom and power that he enjoys.

SEE PAGE 34–35



THE SILK ROAD

This tour follows this legendary route through the remote north-east oases town of China, traversing the notorious **Taklamakan Desert** and the foothills of the **Himalayas** as far west as **Kashgar** where we visit the celebrated **Sunday bazaar** and drive along the **Kamakoram Highway**.

SEE PAGE 36–37



SICHUAN, TIBET & YUNNAN

From **Chengdu** and its pandas, to **Tibet** and the great fortress-monasteries of **Lhasa**, **Shigatze** and **Gyantze**, and onward to **Yunnan**. Admire the stunning mountain scenery, learn of the colourful ethnic minorities' cultures and stay in charming towns such as **Dali**, **Kunming**, **Lijiang** and **Zhongdian**, also known as **Shangri-La**.

SEE PAGES 38–39



The Heavenly Kingdom of Sichuan

14 days – Beijing, Chengdu, Jiuzhaigou, Ya'an, Mount Emei, Beijing

Enjoy Sichuan's storybook treasures – hidden Tibetan villages, secluded Buddhist monasteries, sacred mountains, vivid lakes and cascades of the clearest water, and the highlight for many, encounters with Giant Pandas. Infinitely picturesque and wildly romantic, Sichuan is a dazzling array of natural wonders and witness to a timeless civilisation.



GIANT PANDA

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING

Arrive in Beijing and transfer to 4★ *Novotel Xinqiao Hotel* for a three-night stay.

DAY 3 BEIJING BLD

Walk along the **Great Wall of China** at its most atmospheric, the section between **Jinshaling** and **Gubeikou** which is partly restored. It takes around 5-6 hours to walk this section and there are some steep uphill slopes and very uneven and rough ground, but the relative remoteness of the wall here, its ancient watchtowers gazing over wild scenery, does make for an utterly exhilarating experience.

DAY 4 BEIJING BLD

Tour Beijing's most recent highlights, the extraordinary **Olympic Sites**. Admire the **Aquatics Centre**, the 'Water Cube' that looks like a huge blue box of soap bubbles, actually a membrane of 3,000 pneumatic cushions set in a polyhedral steel frame. Also tour the **National Stadium**, the **Bird's Nest** that hosted the opening and closing ceremonies.

DAY 5 CHENGDU BLD

Fly to Chengdu, the capital of the colourful province of Sichuan, for two nights at the 5★ *Tibet Hotel*.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Visit Beijing's Olympic Sites

Explore Jiuzhaigou, the Nine Village Valley, and Huanglong Scenic Areas

See Giant Pandas at Bifengxia

See Leshan's Giant Buddha

Ascend sacred Mount Emei

DAY 6 CHENGDU BLD

Visit the vivid **Wenshu Monastery**, dedicated to the Buddhist incarnation of wisdom, and relax in the tea house under the ginkgo trees. Continue to admire poetic river views from **Wanjianglou Pavilion** that stands in its own bamboo park, and visit the museum of **brocade** before walking through **Kuanzhai Lanes**, lined with traditional houses decorated with intricate woodcarving and red lanterns. Later attend a **Sichuan 'face-changing' Opera** – see if you can spot how the performers swap their masks so quickly!

DAY 7 HUANGLONG BLD

Fly to Jiuzhaigou, Sichuan's foremost nature reserve, a land of fairy-tale beauty. Known as the **Nine Village Valley** after its wonderfully picturesque Tibetan settlements, it is also noted for its stunning scenery of craggy mountains, tiered waterfalls and 114 clear, jewel-like lakes. Stay two nights at the 4★ *New Jiuzhai Hotel* in the wildly romantic Huanglong, or **Yellow Dragon**, scenic area. Note that the altitude here is around 11,500ft above sea level.

DAY 8 JIUZHAIGOU BLD

These once-hidden villages are surrounded by **spectacular landscapes** that are home to a wealth of endemic flora and fauna. 40% of all China's plants are found here, 223 species of birds, as well as giant pandas, red pandas, Sichuan golden monkeys and Asiatic black bears.

DAY 9 YA'AN BL

Fly to Chengdu, and drive to Ya'an, a town on the old road to Tibet, calling en-route at the picturesque town of **Shangli** with its traditional houses and bridges. Stay two nights at the 4★ *Moonstar Hotel*.

DAY 10 YA'AN BLD

Opened in 2003, **Bifengxia Panda Base** is one of the foremost research and breedings centres in China. Over 70 pandas live in semi-natural surroundings here, learning how to survive in the wild before they are set free.

DAY 11 MOUNT EMEI BLD

Drive to the magnificent **Giant Buddha** in Leshan, a 233ft-high statue hewn into the cliffside in the 8th century in the belief it would make the treacherous river below safer for travellers. Drive to **Mount Emei** to stay two nights at the 4★ *Emei Mountain Hotel*.

DAY 12 MOUNT EMEI BLD

This is one of China's most magnificent and beloved mountains, its slopes covered in orchids, rhododendrons,

ginkgo, roses, herbs and tea, as well as thick forests and dozens of tiny temples. Take the cable car up to the **Golden Summit** and see the **Sea of Clouds**, also visit the oldest building on Mount Emei, **Wannian Temple**, filled with thousands of statues, and the delightful **Baoguo Temple** at the base.

DAY 13 CHENGDU B

Drive to Chengdu for an overnight stay.

DAY 14 DEPART CHINA B

Fly from Chengdu to London Heathrow via Beijing with Air China.

Instead of returning to Beijing on Day 13, fly to Shanghai for two nights at the **Lansheng Hotel** with a sightseeing tour of **Yuyuan Garden**, **Jade Buddha Temple**, **Shanghai Museum**, the **Bund** and **Xintiandi**, with lunch. Two nights with breakfast, city tour and transfers from £295 per person twin shared.

BESPOKE TOURS

SUPPLEMENT FROM
£145

You can adapt any tour in our brochure to create your own bespoke China Holiday. Simply call our expert team to tailor-make a tour just for you, and you can arrange to stay longer in any particular place, upgrade your hotels, add more meals or extra visits – whatever you choose. Enjoy a bespoke Heavenly Kingdom of Sichuan tour exclusively for you with your own chauffeur and guide, by calling **020 7487 2999**.



LESHAN BUDDHA



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REGIONAL TOURS

27

Inner Mongolia

13 days – Beijing, Yinchuan, Baotou, Hohhot, Grasslands, Hohhot, Datong, Beijing

The Great Wall of China was built specifically to keep out the hordes of fierce Mongol invaders, exemplified by the legendary Genghis Khan. Explore his 'land of blue skies', the ancient kingdom of high prairies where nomads still tend their horses and sheep, of shifting deserts and beautiful monasteries and temples.



INNER MONGOLIA



MONGOLIA YURT



HANGING TEMPLE

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING D

Arrive in Beijing and transfer to 3★ *Red Wall Hotel* for an overnight stay. Welcome dinner tonight.

DAY 3 YINCHUAN BLD

Fly to Yinchuan on the frontier with Inner Mongolia. Visit the huge *Nanguan Mosque* and the 1,500-year-old *Haibo Pagoda*, and climb to the top for panoramic views. Stay overnight at the 4★ *Rainbow Bridge Hotel*.

DAY 4 YINCHUAN OVERNIGHT TRAIN BLD

Drive out to the *Helanshan Rock Carvings*. Also see the *Royal Tombs* of the Western Xia dynasty. Take the overnight train to Baotou in 4-berth soft-sleeper compartments.

DAY 5 BAOTOU BLD

On arrival in the heart of Inner Mongolia, breakfast at your hotel, the 4★ *Baotou Tianwaitian Hotel*, then drive out to the *mausoleum of Genghis Khan*. Marvel at the immense sand dunes at *Resonant Sand Gorge*, part of the *Gobi Desert* and try sand-sliding or camel-riding.

DAY 6 HOHNOT BLD

Visit the only intact Tibetan Buddhist monastery in Inner Mongolia, *Wudang Zhao*. Drive to Hohhot, calling at the vast *Meidai Zhou Monastery*, part temple, part palace and part fortress. Stay two nights at the 3★ *Shiao Hotel*.

DAY 7 HOHNOT BLD

See two factories today. *Mengniu Dairy* is surrounded by rich grasslands and is one of China's largest producers of milk products, and also *Mengliang National Commodities* factory. Visit the tomb of one of the four most beautiful women of ancient China.

DAY 8 GRASSLANDS BLD

Head into the *Xilamuren grasslands*, enjoy a hearty lunch, meet a nomadic herdsman and his family, and watch their skills at horse-riding, archery and wrestling. Tonight stay in a *Mongolian yurt* and watch a traditional toast ceremony, with singing and dancing around a bonfire.

DAY 9 HOHNOT BLD

Return to Hohhot, visiting the *Inner Mongolian Museum* with its exhibits of minority tribes' costumes and culture, as well as exciting dinosaur fossils. See the *Five Pagoda Temple*, *Dazhao Temple* or the *Silver Buddha Temple*, and wander through the quaint old quarter.

DAY 10 DATONG BLD

A morning train journey to Datong, there admire the five enthroned and gilded Buddhas in *Huayuan Temple* that also houses the museum and the glorious *Nine Dragon Screen*, a wall of colourfully glazed tiles 600 years old. Stay two nights at the 4★ *Datong Hotel*.

DAY 11 DATONG BLD

View the spectacularly-located *Hanging Temple*, hewn from caves 150ft up the sacred *Heng Shan* mountain, and where Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism are all celebrated. Continue to the *Wooden Temple* at *Yingxian*, 1,000 years old and built entirely without nails.

DAY 12 BEIJING BL

Visit *Yungang* where hundreds of caves are filled with 50,000 Buddhist statues created in the 5th and 6th centuries and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Take the train to Beijing to stay overnight at the 3★ *Red Wall Hotel*.

DAY 13 DEPART CHINA B

Fly from Beijing to London Heathrow with Air China arriving on the same day.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

See the *Mausoleum of Genghis Khan*

Walk on the *Resonant Sands of Gobi Desert*

Stay in a yurt on the *Mongolian grasslands*

Admire the *Yungang Grottoes*

Fly out to China early to visit Chengde where the Emperors of China had their beautiful summer palace, high in the cool hills. Visit the palace, gardens and eight outer temples of the *Mountain Retreat*, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Drive from Beijing to Chengde via the Great Wall, three nights at the 4★ *Yunshan Hotel* with breakfast, train back to Beijing. Price from £355 per person twin shared.

TAILOR-MAKE THIS INNER MONGOLIATOUR

SUPPLEMENT FROM
£125

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For reservations please call **020 7487 2999**

China HOLIDAYS



Minority Villages

18 days – Shanghai, Guiyang, Anshun, Kaili, Xijiang, Rongjiang, Zhaoxing, Sanjiang, Longji, Guilin, Yangshuo, Shanghai

A remote region of river valleys overlooked by steep terraced hills and rice paddies, dotted with picturesque minority villages. Here, the dozens of ethnic minorities preserve their age-old way of life and strong cultural identity, their history and legends told in the intricate designs of their embroidery and jewellery, in heartfelt songs and exuberant dances.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Visit minority groups of Miao, Dong, Shui, Zhuang, Yao, Gejia, Shiqiao, Bouyei

Walk through the Dragon's Backbone Rice Terraces

Stay in characterful villages

Admire stunning rural scenery



GUIZHOU



HUANGGUOSHU WATERFALL

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly from London Heathrow to Shanghai aboard China Eastern's non-stop flight.

DAY 2 SHANGHAI

Upon your arrival, transfer to 4★ *Shanghai Ocean Hotel* for an overnight stay.

DAY 3 GUIYANG B L D

Fly to Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou province in the south of China, for an overnight stay at the 4★ *Trade-Point Hotel*.

DAY 4 ANSHUN B L D

Drive to Anshun and the magnificent **Huangguoshu Waterfall**, 225ft high and 265ft wide, and **Tianxing Bridge** beauty spot with its rocks, caves and water. Stay overnight at the 4★ *Anshun Hotel*.

DAY 5 KAILI B L D

Visit the Bouyei village of **Tian Long** where you can see a collection of the famous local *di* opera masks, made of wood and brightly painted, and whose menfolk still dress as they did 600 years ago when they were first sent here as frontier troops. Watch **Shiqiao** villagers make decorative paper the old way from tree bark, and the women at **Qingman** produce cotton and silk to make clothes. Stay at the *Grand Metro Park Hotel* in Kaili.

DAY 6 XIJIANG B L D

A visit to the **Minorities Culture Museum** serves as a good introduction to the customs, costumes, domestic life, crafts and festivals of the various minorities of the region, such as those of the Gejia people of **Matang Village** whose womenfolk are highly skilled at batik and petit point, and which we visit later. Also walk around the upper and lower **Jidao Miao** villages to see their waterwheels, stilt houses and the distinctive long-skirted costumes of the women. Continue to **Xijiang Village**, the largest Miao Village of the region of around 1,200 typical wooden houses on stilts to stay two nights at the *Hotel in the Clouds*.

DAY 7 XIJIANG B L D

Spend the day amidst wonderful scenery and rural charms of daily life in this authentic Miao Village. The wooden houses of Xijiang sprawl up two hillsides in the **White Water River valley** in the foothills of **Leigong Mountain**, surrounded

by terraced fields and fantastic views. Watch the farmers head off to work with their shoulder poles and buffalo, see the women display their famous cross-stitch embroidery, batik and silver headdresses in distinctive designs. Later enjoy a performance by the local Miao of their traditional music and dance.

DAY 8 RONGJIANG B L D

Today explore the home of the God of Thunder at **Leigong Mountain**, 7,150ft high, its slopes scattered with Shui and Miao villages. Also see the Shui villagers making bamboo musical flute-like pipes called *lusheng* – they are well known for their love of music, dance and song. After admiring the surprising mini skirts of the women of **Datang** we approach **Rongjiang** where we stay tonight at the *Dongxiangmi Hotel*.

DAY 9 ZHAOXING B L D

A scenic riverside drive to **Basha Miao** village, isolated and almost untouched by the modern world. The men have shaved heads except for a long ponytail at the top of their head twisted into a topknot, carry knives and guns, and their embroidered coat tails display how many girls' hearts they have won. Continue to **Gaozeng Dong** village where the girls adorn themselves with huge pieces of silver jewellery, and then on to **Zhaoxing** to stay two nights at the *Zhaoxing Hotel*.

DAY 10 ZHAOXING B L D

All Dong villages have at least one **Drum Tower** which serves as a watchtower and community hall, but **Zhaoxing** has five, one for each clan, and there are also five covered bridges known as **Wind-and-Rain Bridges**, and these are covered in paintings of folk tales, animals and daily life. Spend the day exploring **Zhaoxing** and its environs.

DAY 11 SANJIANG B L D

Drive to **Sanjiang** in neighbouring Guangxi province, on the way seeing the region's famous 100-year-old **wind-and-rain bridge** which is a beautiful piece of architecture – its five pavilions are supported by five stone pillars and connected by roofed corridors with sweeping eaves, and the entire 250ft-long bridge is made of wood with no nails. See **Sanjiang's** other fine building, the 155ft high pyramid-like **Drum Tower** and stay at the *Fengyuqiao International Hotel*.





LONGJI



ZHAOXING



GUIZHOU

DAY 12 LONGJI B L D

Admire photogenic Gaoding Dong village which is very much off the beaten track, visit the **Temple of the Three Kings**, Sangwanggong, and **Batuan's** wind-and-rain bridge that uniquely has one aisle for people and another for livestock. Drive onwards to the breathtaking **Dragon's Backbone Mountains** at Longji and stay at the *Star Wish Resort* for two nights.

DAY 13 LONGJI B L D

There being no flat land to farm in this region, the local Zhuang and Yao people had to create their own, and so 800 years ago they started carving these mountains into ribbons of rice terraces that coil around the contours of the steep slopes. There are now over 16,300 acres of rice terraces and today walk through some of them to picturesque **Ping'An** village.

DAY 14 GUILIN B L D

Drive to Guilin and climb **Yao Mountain** along a path lined with temples and statues for fantastic views of the karst mountains that rise steeply from the river valley below as far as the eye can see. Also visit a local **tea plantation** and stay overnight at the *Guilin Bravo Hotel*.

DAY 15 YANGSHUO B L D

Morning cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo through breathtakingly-lovely scenery. Time for last-minute shopping at Yangshuo's handicrafts market before a spectacular *son et lumiere* show with the 600-strong cast on rafts on the river. Stay two nights at the 5★ *Yangshuo Green Lotus Hotel*.

DAY 16 YANGSHUO B L D

A day to enjoy a gentle bicycle ride along the lovely **Yulong River** and to drift through poetic landscapes on a **bamboo raft**.

DAY 17 SHANGHAI B L D

Visit **Silver Cave** inside a karst mountain where bizarrely-shaped stalagmites and stalactites are likened to mythical beasts and dramatically illuminated. Drive back to Guilin and fly to Shanghai, for a final night at the 4★ *Shanghai Ocean Hotel*.

DAY 18 DEPART CHINA B

Fly from Shanghai to London Heathrow with China Eastern.

Please note that accommodation these off-the-beaten-track villages is often of a rather spartan nature, with service and meals likewise of a lower standard than encountered elsewhere in China. Roads can be winding and poorly paved, and drives therefore long and bumpy.

PRIVATE MINORITY VILLAGES TOUR

SUPPLEMENT FROM

£195

If you would like to make this into a private tour just for you and your partner, friends or family, enjoying the benefits of travelling with your own chauffeur and English-speaking guide and choosing your own departure date, please call and ask our tailor-made team on **0207 487 2999** to make arrangements for your own perfect Minority Villages tour.

Fly out to Shanghai early to stay in the delightful town of Hangzhou to enjoy a cruise on the scenic West Lake, a visit to a traditional pharmacy and an exquisite manor house and gardens, and a stroll along the picturesque old quarter. Two nights at the 4★ *Best Western Meiyuan Hotel* with breakfast, return Shanghai-Hangzhou train journeys and sightseeing from £395 per person twin shared.



LONGSHENG

For reservations please call **020 7487 2999**

China HOLIDAYS



PRICES FROM
£2895

Taiwan

15 days – Taipei, Taroko Gorge, Taitung, Kenting, Fokuangshan Monastery, Alishan National Park, Sun Moon, Taipei

An extraordinary, tiny island, Taiwan is crammed with natural riches – a spine of dramatically beautiful mountains is flanked by fertile coastal plains, indigenous tribes and endemic wildlife flourish. This fascinating tour reveals the charms and contrasts of the island, from the rugged cliffs and valleys of the east coast to the coral reefs and banana plantations of the south, and from the extreme beauty of Alishan Mountain to the spectacular gorges of Taroko.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Take part in the meditation at Fokuangshan
- Stay in Taiwan's character hotels
- Explore three national parks
- Cruise on Sun Moon Lake
- Visit aboriginal villages



DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly from London Heathrow aboard Cathay Pacific's flight to Taipei via Hong Kong.

DAY 2 TAIPEI

Arrive in Taipei and transfer to 4★ *Riviera Hotel*.

DAY 3 TAIPEI (B L)

Admire the fabulous exhibits of Chinese art at the **National Palace Museum**, the private collection of the Emperors of China. See the moving **Martyrs' Shrine** and the memorial to Chiang Kai Shek, the first ruler of Taiwan's Republic of China. Visit the dazzling **Longshan Temple** and admire the once tallest building in the world **Taipei 101** for a photo-shoot.

DAY 4 TAROKO GORGE (B)

Stunning scenery awaits on the drive down the east coast of the island, the wide open sea and near-vertical cliffs on one side of the winding roads, the gushing Liwu River and mountains on the other. Arrive at the **Leader Village Cottage House** in Taroko for a two-night stay.

DAY 5 TAROKO GORGE (B L)

Enjoy exploring **Taroko Gorge National Park** where a tribe of Atayal people, one of the many tribes of Taiwanese aborigines, still live, as do wild boar and the Formosan black bear. See the **Eternal Spring Shrine** and **Swallow Caves**, admire startling cliffs in the **Tunnel of Nine Turns** and cross the **Bridge of Motherly Devotion**.

DAY 6 TAITUNG (B)

A beautiful drive along the East Coast, calling at the **Bachi scenic lookout** over the Pacific Ocean, the **Stone Steps**, the **Terrace of the Three Immortals**, bizarre sandstone rock formations at **Xiaoyeliu** and a **Bunun tribe village** en route to Taitung. Stay overnight at the 5★ *Hotel Royal Chihpen*.

DAY 7 KENTING (B L)

Head to the southernmost point of Taiwan and the tropical **Kenting National Park** to stay two nights at the 4★ *Howard Beach Resort*. Enjoy the varied landscapes of coral reefs, sandy beaches, rocky outcrops, forests, limestone mountains, rivers and lakes where diverse wildlife flourish. Visit **Longluan Lake** which is a popular spot for migratory birds in spring and autumn, and **Maopitou**, the 'cat's nose', a bizarrely eroded coral seashore at the very tip of Taiwan.

DAY 8 KENTING (B)

Visit **Eluanbi Lighthouse**, built in 1883 by an Englishman in the teeth of fierce opposition from the local aboriginal people who mounted constant attacks during its construction – as a result it is one of the few fortified lighthouses in the world. For the rest of the day explore the park.

DAY 9 FOKUANGSHAN (B D)

Today drive through fertile farmland to **Fokuangshan Monastery**, the **Buddha's Light Mountain**. This is a modern monastery that follows humanistic Buddhism. Stay overnight in the monastery's basic but comfortable guest house, *Pilgrims' Lodge*.

DAY 10 ALISHAN NATIONAL PARK (B D)

You may like to join the early morning chanting, prayers, tai chi or meditation at the monastery this morning, before departing to Tainan to visit the 17th century Dutch **fortress and tower** that were the hub of their short-lived occupation of the island. Continue to Alishan National Scenic Area where cypress trees cover the slopes of **Mount Alishan** and clouds wreath the peak, to stay at 4★ *Alishan House Hotel*.

DAY 11 SUN MOON LAKE (B)

Head inland to Taiwan's largest lake, **Sun Moon Lake**, one half of which is said to resemble the sun, the other a new moon. Stay two nights at the lake side resort 4★ *Lea Lea Garden Hotel*.

DAY 12 SUN MOON LAKE (B L)

Admire the ever-changing moods of the lake and its mountains on a gentle stroll, visiting a temple or pagoda along the way. Relax in the stylish surroundings of the **Lalu** with its excellent facilities, enjoy a **lake cruise** and watch the sunset.

DAY 13 TAIPEI (B)

Head north to Taipei via **Yingge village** famous for its ceramics and art studios set along attractive old streets. Also call at **Sanxia Old Street** which boasts some fine architecture from the early 20th century and a wonderful temple. Stay two nights at 4★ *Riviera Hotel*.

DAY 14 TAIPEI (B L)

Drive out to see the bizarre geological rock formations at **Yehilu Geopark**, a mile-long promontory eroded by the wind and waves into scores of honeycomb and mushroom-shaped rocks. Also visit the quaint and scenically-located old town of **Jiufen** before returning to Taipei.

DAY 15 DEPART CHINA (B)

Fly to London Heathrow via Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific arriving on the same day.

Relax after your in-depth tour of Taiwan with an extra couple of nights at the *Riviera Hotel* in Taipei and a day tour by coach to a nearby aboriginal village. Prices from £195 per person, twin shared.

PRIVATE TAIWAN TOUR

SUPPLEMENT FROM
£125

If you would like to make this into a private tour just for you and your partner, friends or family, enjoying the benefits of travelling with your own chauffeur and English-speaking guide and choosing your own departure date, please call and ask our tailor-made team on **0207 487 2999** to make arrangements for your own perfect Taiwan tour.



PRICES FROM
£2495



REGIONAL TOURS

31

Confucius and Buddha

15 days – Beijing, Jinan, Qufu, Taian, Zibo, Qingdao, Yantai, Beijing

Journey through the spiritual heartland of China, where Confucius was born, where mountains are worshipped as gods by Taoists, and where Buddha gazes unperturbed over all. On this intriguing tour taste German beer and Chinese wine, see the Great Wall, learn of the origins of football, porcelain and kite flying, and marvel at three UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



CONFUCIUS AND BUDDHA



CONFUCIUS TEMPLE

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Confucius's birthplace and grave
- Ascend Qianfo, Taishan and Laoshan Mountains
- See oldest section of the Great Wall
- Enjoy wine tasting
- See the Naval Museum

Why don't you fly to Beijing earlier and try some gentle hiking on the Great Wall of China? Price from £195

TAILOR-MAKE THIS CONFUCIUS & BUDDHA TOUR

Supplement from **£125**

If you prefer to travel in a private group or to go at your own pace spending more time in one particular city perhaps, our tailor made tours are the perfect answer. Travel with your own personal chauffeur and English-speaking guide, available for any group size. Just call and ask our tailor-made team on **020 7487 2999** to help you create your own Confucius & Buddha tour.

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing aboard Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING (D)

Arrive in Beijing and transfer to 4★ *Novotel Xinqiao Hotel* for an overnight stay. Welcome dinner tonight.

DAY 3 JINAN (B L D)

Visit Beijing's Olympic site before taking the high-speed train to Jinan in Shandong province. Explore **Spring Park** where some of the purest water in China gushes from natural springs. At dinner sample some specialities of the local **Lu Cai** cuisine, and stay two nights at the 4★ *Shungeng Hillview Hotel*.

DAY 4 JINAN (B L)

Climb **Qianfo Mountain** with glorious views and hundreds of Buddha statues lining the path. See 7,000-year-old artefacts from nearby villages, and a 72ft-long Ming-era boat excavated from the marshes, at the **Shandong Provincial Museum**.

DAY 5 QUFU (B L)

Drive to Qufu, birthplace of the humble scholar Confucius. Stay two nights at the 4★ *Queli Hotel*.

DAY 6 QUFU (B L)

Since Confucius has been revered for centuries as China's most influential philosopher, successive emperors created an extraordinarily ornate **temple and mansion** for his descendants which we visit today.

DAY 7 TAIAN (B L)

Drive to Taian to spend two nights at the 4★ *Lijing Hotel*. Visit the magnificent **Dai Temple** at the foot of China's most holy Taoist mountain, **Taishan**, and the starting point for pilgrimages up to the peak.

DAY 8 TAIAN (B L)

Take the cable car over Taishan's pine, ginkgo and cypress-covered slopes dotted with ancient temples, bridges and gates, to admire the **Azure Clouds Temple** and worship the harmony of man and nature at its peak.

DAY 9 ZIBO (B L)

See the oldest section of the **Great Wall**, built across Shandong province from Jinan to Qingdao. At Zibo's **porcelain museum** view unique ceramics, some glazed or carved, some the local eggshell black pottery, and some pieces thousands of years old. Stay overnight at Zibo's 4★ *Ramada Hotel*.



TAIAN

DAY 10 QINGDAO (B L)

Drive to Linzi to visit the **Hall of Immolated Horses** and the **Football Museum** – according to locals football was invented for military training several hundred years BC. Continue to the **Folk Art Museum** at Yangjiabu village, then head to the port of Qingdao, the twin town of Southampton, and cross the world's longest bridge over water at 26.4 miles, the **Jiaozhou Bay Bridge**, to stay two nights at the 4★ *Huanghai Hotel*.

DAY 11 QINGDAO (B L)

Mount Laoshan stands 3,700ft above Qingdao, said to be home to a god and a goddess who procure husbands and wives for those who come to ask for one. Enjoy rambling past rocky outcrops and waterfalls, springs of curative water, ancient Taoists temples and majestic trees.

DAY 12 YANTAI (B L)

The Germans occupied Qingdao in 1903 and thus was founded the **Tsingtao Beer Factory** which still produces beer today using spring water from Laoshan. After a tour of the Bavarian-style brewery drive to Penglai for two nights at the *Yantai Ramada Hotel*. Visit the **Naval Museum**.

DAY 13 YANTAI (B L)

Drive along the coast to Penglai to see the 14th century **Fortress**, cunningly built to be unseen by Japanese pirate ships who plagued the coast here. Stroll through the wooded hills of **Penglai Pavilion** where there are pretty temples and palaces and beautiful views out to sea.

DAY 14 BEIJING (B L)

It is said that the **Eight Immortals** of Taoism drank wine here before heading out to sea without boats. Wine is still produced today – try some at a local **winery**. Fly from Yantai to Beijing for an overnight stay at the 4★ *Novotel Xin Qiao Hotel*.

DAY 15 DEPART CHINA (B)

Fly from Beijing to London Heathrow with Air China.

For reservations please call **020 7487 2999**

China HOLIDAYS

PRICES FROM
£2595

A Tibetan Expedition

14 days – Beijing, Roof of the World train, Lhasa, Gyantze, Shigatze, New Tingri, Zhangmu, Kathmandu

This fabled land of nomads and pilgrims, monasteries and mountain passes has enthralled travellers for generations. Join us on the classic overland journey through magical Tibet, from Beijing aboard the pioneering Roof of the World train to Lhasa, and onwards along the Friendship Highway to Mount Everest and Kathmandu.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Ride the Roof of the World train
- Visit Mount Everest Base Camp
- Overland journey Beijing to Kathmandu
- Experience Tibetan culture

PRIVATE TIBETAN EXPEDITION TOUR

SUPPLEMENT FROM
£95

If you would like to make this into a private tour just for you and your partner, friends or family, enjoying the benefits of travelling with your own chauffeur and English-speaking guide and choosing your own departure date, please call and ask our tailor-made team on **0207 487 2999** to make arrangements for your own perfect Tibetan Expedition tour.

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Qatar Airways.

DAY 2 BEIJING **D**

Arrive in Beijing for a three-night stay at the 4★ *Novotel Xinqiao Hotel*. Enjoy a welcome dinner.

DAY 3 ROOF OF THE WORLD TRAIN **B L D**

Tour the **Lama Temple** where the Emperors' eunuchs used to live, and the neighbouring **Confucius Temple**, admire panoramic views from **Jingshan Park**, and explore the quaint **Hutong** district of **Shichahai**. Later this evening transfer to the railway station for the 48-hour train journey across the Roof of the World to Lhasa. Accommodation is sharing 'soft sleeper' four-berth compartments, with twin and sole occupancy cabins on request and at extra cost. The trains have an oxygen supply to every seat, there is a restaurant car (we have not included meals on the train) and toilets and washbasins are at each end of the carriages.

DAY 4 ROOF OF THE WORLD TRAIN

This is one of the world's greatest rail journeys, an overland expedition across the vast and remote wilderness known as 'the roof of the world' to the furthest outpost of China, and a massive feat of engineering – it is the world's highest railway and its highest point is at **Tanggula Pass**, 16,640ft above sea level, it incorporates 675 bridges, and 340 miles of the track are laid on permafrost.

DAY 5 LHASA **D**

After traversing the vast frozen expanse of the **Tibetan plateau**, a high-altitude desert, passing glaciers, lakes and rivers, and cutting through the immense mountain ranges that have isolated the country from the outside world until now, arrive in Lhasa this evening and transfer to the (officially 5★) 4★ *Brahmaputra Hotel*, a modern and comfortable, hotel with many cultural artefacts on display throughout its public areas.

DAY 6 LHASA **B L D**

The name Lhasa means 'place of the gods' and it remains a vivid and still-thriving enclave of devout Buddhism despite the increasing modernisation even of this remote corner of China. 425ft above the city on **Red Mountain** stands the fortress-like **Potala Palace**, 13 storeys high and with 1,000 rooms filled with statues, chapels, manuscripts and murals. Potala was the winter palace of the Dalai Lamas and Tibet's political and spiritual headquarters for centuries, and later visit the summer palace, **Norbulingka**, a complex of delightful pavilions and gardens outside the city. Visit the 15th century **Sera Monastery** and its Great Assembly Hall, dormitories and colleges where 10,000 monks used to live.

DAY 7 LHASA **B L D**

One of the three great monasteries of Tibet, **Drepung Monastery** is a religious university where around 600 monks live – in its heyday before the Potala Palace was built there were over 10,000 and it was the largest in the world. Free afternoon, follow the throngs of pilgrims as they make the clockwise circuit along **Barkhor Street** that encircles the golden-roofed **Jokhang Temple**, home to the most sacred Buddha statue for Tibetans.

SERA MONASTERY





DAY 8 GYANTSE/SHIGASE **B L D**

Leave Lhasa and drive along the **Southern Friendship Highway** over the **Kampa La mountain pass** to **Yamdruk Lake**, the sacred 'holy sapphire' and female guardian of Buddhism in Tibet. Continue past the **Karo La Glacier** to the small town of Gyantse to visit **Palkhor Chode Monastery** and its nine-storey pyramid-like structure known as a kumbum with 76 chapels lined with lavish murals. Continue to Shigatse to stay at Shigatse Hotel for one night.

DAY 9 SHIGASE/SHEGAR (NEW TINGRI) **B L D**

Visit the red and gold **Tashilungpo Monastery**, founded by the first Dalai Lama in the 15th century and traditional seat of his second-in-command, the Panchen Lama, ever since. See the jewel-encrusted tomb of the tragic 10th Panchen Lama, the 86ft high Maitreya Buddha statue, murals and the immense **Thangka Wall**. Drive through stark landscapes and over mountain passes with only occasional prayer flags providing spots of colour,

Stay an extra three nights in Nepal at the 5★ Radisson Hotel, with a city sightseeing tour of Kathmandu including Durbar Square, the Royal Palace, stupas and temples, and a scenic excursion out to the villages of the Kathmandu Valley. Three nights with breakfast and airport transfer from £295 per person twin shared.

then as we head towards **New Tingri** the road descends into the plains where yaks and sheep graze and nomadic herdsmen live in yak hair tents beneath the panorama of the Himalayas, a sea of snow-capped peaks. This will be the first glimpse of Mount Everest. Stay at the modest Zhufeng Hotel for two nights, a convenient base for the drive to **Mount Everest** tomorrow.

DAY 10 MOUNT EVEREST **B L D**

An unforgettable excursion to Mount Everest, known in Tibet as 'the mother goddess of the universe'. Officially the height of the world's highest mountain is 29,017ft although satellite technology says it to be 29,035ft and increasing in height by up to four inches every year as the tectonic plate under India continues to move north into China. Visit the **Base Camp** at 17,000ft to see the spectacular north face of Mount.



ROOF OF THE WORLD



MOUNT EVEREST

DAY 11 ZHANGMU **B L D**

Rejoin the **Friendship Highway** and drive down to the border of Tibet and Nepal at Zhangmu, descending nearly 10,000ft along winding roads. The landscapes change dramatically, with stunning waterfalls tumbling down deep valleys, thick, lush forests and a much warmer temperature. Stay the night at the modest Caiyuan Hotel.

DAY 12 KATHMANDU **B**

Cross the **Friendship Bridge** into Nepal, and drive through the rich valleys to **Kathmandu** to stay at the 5★ **Radisson Hotel**.

Extra nights here can be arranged if you would like to extend your holiday in Nepal.

DAY 13 KATHMANDU **B**

Fly from Kathmandu to London Heathrow via Doha with Qatar Airways.

DAY 14 LONDON **B**

Arrive at London Heathrow.





Pearls of Shanxi Province

13 days – Beijing, Datong, Wutaishan, Taiyuan, Pingyao, Changzhi, Luoyang, Beijing

Step off the beaten track on this fascinating journey through historic Shanxi province. Sandwiched between the great imperial capitals of Beijing and Xian, the Great Wall and the Yellow River, Shanxi boasts a high number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, quintessential Chinese architecture and unique, breathtaking Buddhist temples.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Marvel at the Yungang Grottoes and Longmen Grottoes

Admire the Hanging Temple and Shaolin Temple

Stay in ancient town of Pingyao

Visit 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING D

On arrival in Beijing transfer to the 4★ *Super House International Hotel* for a one-night stay. This evening take a stroll through **Tiananmen Square** to see **Mao's Mausoleum** and the **Monument to the People's Heroes**, symbolically right in front of the former imperial palace, the **Forbidden City**. Welcome dinner.

DAY 3 DATONG B D

Visit the magnificent circular **Temple of Heaven**, constructed entirely of wood and with no nails, and designed according to principles of cosmology and numerology to illustrate the meeting point of heaven and earth. Take the train to Datong, strategically located between Beijing and Xian, staying for two nights at the 4★ *Datong Hotel*.

DAY 4 DATONG B L

See the five enthroned and gilded Buddhas in **Huayuan Temple** that also houses the museum with its relics unearthed from ancient tombs nearby, and the glorious **Nine Dragon Screen**, a 100ft-long wall of colourfully glazed tiles 600 years old that used to stand in front of the palace entrance to stop evil spirits entering. Visit **Yungang** where caves are filled with 50,000 Buddhist statues that were carved in the 5th and 6th centuries.

DAY 5 WUTAISHAN B L

Drive to Wutai Mountain, the holiest of the four sacred Buddhist peaks of China and home to dozens of monasteries and temples that were mostly built during the **Tang dynasty** of the 7th to 10th centuries. Luckily, they survived Mao's Cultural Revolution as did nearby **Yingxian Wooden Pagoda** from the same era, the oldest and largest wooden building in China and built entirely without nails. Stay tonight at the 4★ *Huahui Hotel*.



LONGMEN GROTTOES



**DAY 6 TAIYUAN B L**

Not only goods but ideas travelled along the old Silk Road to Xian, and at Datong is evidence how Buddhism travelled from India to China, here at the spectacularly-located **Hanging Temple**, hewn from caves in the sacred Heng Shan mountain and clinging to the cliff face, where Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism are all celebrated. Drive to Taiyuan to stay overnight at the 4★ *Shanxi Hotel*.

DAY 7 PINGYAO B L

Visit **Jinci Temple**, a one-thousand-year-old ancestral temple, before driving to the quaint old town of Pingyao. En-route visit the **Qiao Family Mansion**, a perfect example of traditional workmanship and design with graceful roofs, red lanterns and fine carvings. Stay two nights at Pingyao's characterful *Yunjincheng Folk Guest House*.

DAY 8 PINGYAO B L

A day to explore charming Pingyao's well-preserved streets and houses, China's first bank that was established here in 1823 and which brought prosperity to the town, and the great fortified **City Wall**, 30ft high and 15ft wide, that was needed to keep out gangs of thieves intent on robbing the rich citizens and travellers.

DAY 9 CHANGZHI B L D

On the way to Changzhi call at **Pujiu Temple**, founded by the wicked Empress Wu of the Tang dynasty and scene of a famous love story. Stay overnight at the 4★ *Jinxin International Hotel*.

DAY 10 LUOYANG B L D

Head to Luoyang to stay two nights at the 4★ *Grand Hotel*. This afternoon visit the renowned **Longmen Grottoes** where 100,000 Buddhist statues of wildly varying sizes were carved into natural caves along a half-mile stretch of the Yi River valley, mostly between the 5th and the 12th centuries.

DAY 11 LUOYANG B L

Visit the birthplace of kung fu, **Shaolin Temple**, where the Buddhist monks devised this form of exercise to aid their self-discipline and to defend themselves from outside attackers, 1,500 years ago. They gained renown for their fighting prowess and the martial art became an integral part of monastic life. Then tour **Kangbaiwan Manor**, a Ming dynasty house like a castle the size of a village.

DAY 12 BEIJING B

Fly to Beijing for an overnight stay at the 4★ *Super House International Hotel*.

DAY 13 DEPART CHINA B

Fly from Beijing to London Heathrow with Air China arriving on the same day.

At the end of your tour fly to Xian, the ancient capital of China and terminus of the Silk Road, for two nights at the 4★ *Bell Tower Hotel*, with a tour to see the **Terracotta Warriors**, as well as climb the ancient city wall and visit the mosque and quaint muslim quarter. From £295 per person twin shared.

**BESPOKE TOURS**

SUPPLEMENT FROM
£125

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For reservations please call **020 7487 2999**

China HOLIDAYS

PRICES FROM
£3985

The Silk Road

22 days – Beijing, Urumqi, Kashgar, Hotan, Aksu, Kuqa, Korla, Turpan, Dunhuang, Lanzhou, Xiahe, Xian, Beijing

These ancient caravan trails linked Rome and Constantinople, Greece, Persia, India and China for thousands of years, and along them flowed not only goods, but new religions, culture and inventions. Make this legendary journey through tiny, long-forgotten Buddhist kingdoms, criss-crossed by different paths of the Silk Road.



TAILOR-MAKE THE SILK ROAD TOUR

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If you prefer to travel in a private group or to go at your own pace spending more time in one particular city perhaps, our tailor made tours are the perfect answer. Travel with your own personal chauffeur and English-speaking guide, available for any group size. Just call and ask our tailor-made team on **020 7487 2999** to help you create your own Silk Road tour.



DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING D

On arrival transfer to the 3★ *Red Wall Hotel*. This evening take a stroll through **Tiananmen Square** to see **Mao's Mausoleum** and the **Monument to the People's Heroes**. Welcome dinner.

DAY 3 URUMQI B L D

Morning free at leisure. Fly to **Urumqi**, an important staging post on the old Silk Road, surrounded by rich pastures. Stay two nights at the 4★ *Bingtuan Grand Hotel*.

DAY 4 URUMQI B L

Step into another culture at the **Xinjiang Museum**, that of the Muslim Uyghurs of Xinjiang province, learn about their costumes, art and household artefacts – bronzes, ironwork, woodcarvings, silk of course, and weapons – and also viewing the museum's collection of mummies, Bronze Age caucasians, perhaps Celts, early Silk Road travellers. Later climb **Red Hill** for panoramic views of **Urumqi**.

DAY 5 KASHGAR B L D

Fly across desert and mountain to the oasis town of **Kashgar** to attend **Kashgar's Sunday Bazaar**, for countless centuries the most important market in Central Asia, and where Uyghurs, Kazakhs, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Tatars and Mongols from far and wide still come to haggle for provisions, household goods, hats and livestock. Explore the characterful old quarter, the **Tomb of the Fragrant Lady** and **Id Kad Mosque**, and visit a local Uyghur family in their home. Stay two nights at the 3★ *Qinibagh Hotel*.

DAY 6 KASHGAR B L D

A dramatic drive along the famous **Kamakorom Highway** which follows one of the paths of the Silk Road to Pakistan, but today we go as far as **Karakul Lake**, lying in a stunning setting with snow-capped mountains all around.

DAY 7 HOTAN B L D

A long drive skirting the **Taklamakan Desert** to **Hotan**, a major crossroads and staging post of the southern Silk Road, with an en-route visit to **Yarkand**, capital of an ancient Uyghur kingdom, to see the 16th century **Ammanisha Tomb** and the **Golden Graveyard**. Stay two nights at the 3★ *Hotan Hotel*.

DAY 8 HOTAN B L D

Hotan is famous for its rare 'sheep fat' white jade – at **White Jade River** see if you can pick out any of this highly prized and increasingly rare treasure from the riverbed, washed down from the mountain and worn smooth and round. Visit **Hotan Museum**, and see the ruins of **Malikwat**, the capital of the pre-Islamic, Buddhist **Yutian** kingdom.

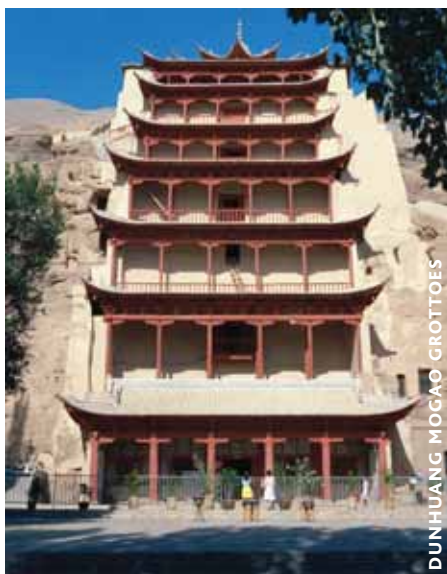
DAY 9 AKSU B L D

Head into 'the abandoned place', the fierce **Taklamakan Desert**, a vast inland 'sea of death' of shifting sands that could swallow camel caravans and entire settlements, and which used to take 40 days to cross – on the new road it takes less than eight hours. Stay overnight at the 4★ *Hongfu Hotel*.

DAY 10 KUQA B L D

Continue towards **Kuqa** to stay two nights at the 3★ *Kuqa Hotel*. Also visit the **Thousand-Buddha Caves** at **Kizil**, where the almost Indian and Persian-style murals depict not only the Buddha but everyday life of the locals before the region became Muslim – farming, hunting, and playing the music that was famous throughout Central Asia.





DUNHUANG MOGAO GROTTOS



HOTAN

DAY 11 KUQA (B L D)

See the spectacularly-located ruins of the great 1st century Buddhist temple at Subashi, and Kuqa Mosque that can hold 3,000 worshippers, built in the 20th century in a typical Uyghur style.

DAY 12 KORLA (B L D)

Morning drive to Korla, an oasis town blessed with abundant water and fertile farmland. Admire the Iron Fortress at the entrance to a dangerous mountain pass, and Lotus Lake, home to many waterbirds. Stay overnight at the 3★Bazhou Hotel.

DAY 13 TURPAN (B L D)

Head to Turpan's Flaming Mountains to see Gaochang fortress, destroyed by the Mongols, the underground Astana Tombs and the Bezeklik Buddha Caves. Stay overnight at the 4★Huozhou Hotel.

DAY 14 TURPAN, OVERNIGHT TRAIN (B L D)

2,000 years ago the locals built an ingenious irrigation system of wells and underground channels that is still used today to grow the vines and fruit for which the town is famous. See this system at work, and also visit the ruins of Jiaohe and the elegant Emin Minaret, the highest in China. Take the overnight train to Liuyuan in a four-berth soft-sleeper compartment.

DAY 15 DUNHUANG (B L D)

From Liuyuan drive to Dunhuang at the western end of the Great Wall. Visit the City Museum's relics from all along the Silk Road, and stay overnight at the 4★Dunhuang Hotel.

DAY 16 DUNHUANG, OVERNIGHT TRAIN (B L D)

Admire the Mogao Grottoes, Buddhist cave temples used for a thousand years and decorated with sculptures and murals. Walk in the sand dunes at Mingshan Mountain to hear the 'singing sands' and see Crescent Moon Lake. Overnight train to Lanzhou.

DAY 17 XIAHE (B L D)

From Lanzhou drive to Lijiaxia Reservoir on the Yellow River and take a ferry over to Bingling Temple to see the splendid but lesser-known (and therefore better-preserved) cave temples. Drive to Xiahe, known as 'little Tibet', and stay two nights at the 4★Labrang Legend Hotel.

DAY 18 XIAHE (B L D)

Admire Labrang Monastery, the largest Tibetan monastery outside Tibet, and tour the surrounding grasslands where nomads still tend their flocks, and villages where life proceeds pretty much as it always has done.

Fly out to Beijing early for an extra two nights at the 3★ Red Wall Hotel with a superb sightseeing tour of the Bird's Nest and the Water Cube Olympic sites, the quaint quarter around Houhai Lake and the contemporary artists' galleries and workshops of Factory 798 in an industrial suburb. Two nights with breakfast, sightseeing tour and airport transfer from £125 per person twin shared.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Visit Kashgar's Sunday bazaar

Drive along the Karakoram Highway

Drive into the Taklamakan Desert

Visit the Mogao Grottoes

See the Great Wall at Dunhuang

DAY 19 XIAN (B L)

Return by road to Lanzhou and fly to Xian, the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and old capital of China. Stay two nights at the 4★Le Garden hotel.

DAY 20 XIAN (B L D)

Admire the 7,000 soldiers of the Terracotta Army, their horses, chariots and weapons that were made to guard the tomb of China's first emperor. Climb the massive city walls, and tonight enjoy the Tang Dynasty Music and Dance show and dinner.

DAY 21 BEIJING (B)

Fly to Beijing and stay at the 3★Red Wall Hotel.

DAY 22 DEPART CHINA (B)

Fly from Beijing to London Heathrow with Air China arriving on the same day.

Please note that this is an arduous tour in sometimes difficult conditions with little luxury - distances long, hotels of a lesser standard than one might choose, the food monotonous, temperatures extreme. An acceptance of the realities of a journey in such a remote and unmodernised region is required.



KASHGAR





Sichuan, Tibet and Yunnan

22 days – Shanghai, Chengdu, Lhasa, Gyantze, Shigatze, Lhasa, Zhongdian (Shangri-La), Lijiang, Dali, Kunming, Shanghai

This tour encompasses the most dramatically beautiful and culturally vibrant triangle of Tibet, Sichuan and Yunnan, where old trade routes through Asia connected ancient kingdoms of ethnic minorities otherwise isolated by geography. Spellbinding scenery, age-old Buddhist temples and the daily traditions of minority people make this a unique, unforgettable journey.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

See Giant Pandas at Chengdu

Tour the Potala Palace, Lhasa

Explore the old town of Lijiang

Admire the karst Stone Forest

Meet a Tibetan family



YUNNAN/DALI

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Shanghai with China Eastern Airlines.

DAY 2 SHANGHAI

Stay two nights at the 4★ *Shanghai Ocean Hotel*.

DAY 3 SHANGHAI B L D

Stroll around the delightful Yuyuan Garden, its ponds, pavilions, paths and plants creating an infinitely varied series of exquisite views, and visit **Jade Buddha Temple** whose statues were carried all the way from Burma. Later walk along Shanghai's riverside promenade, the **Bund**, with 19th century European architecture along one bank, and the futuristic skyscrapers of **Pudong** opposite.

DAY 4 CHENGDU B D

Fly to Chengdu for two nights at the 5★ *Tibet Hotel*. In a quaint and colourful part of the old town, step back in time as you walk along **Kuanzhai Lanes**, lined with traditional houses decorated with intricate woodcarving and red lanterns.

DAY 5 CHENGDU B L D

Get close to one of the world's most adorable and endangered animals at the **Panda Research Base** here which both supports those living in the wild and also works on a successful breeding programme. Later attend an intriguing and entertaining **Sichuan 'face-changing' Opera** – see if you can spot how the performers swap their masks so quickly!

DAY 6 LHASA B L D

Fly to **Lhasa** to stay four nights at the 5★ *Brahmaputra Hotel*. The rest of the day is free to rest and acclimatise to Tibet's high altitudes, 12,000ft above sea level here in Lhasa and rising to 15,750ft later in the journey.

DAY 7 LHASA B L D

Visit the 15th century **Sera Monastery** and its **Great Assembly Hall**, dormitories and colleges where 10,000 monks used to live. Later, follow the throngs of pilgrims as they make the clockwise circuit along **Barkhor Street** that encircles the golden-roofed **Jokhang Temple**, home to the most sacred Buddha statue for Tibetans.

DAY 8 LHASA B L D

425ft above the city on **Red Mountain** stands the fortress-like **Potala Palace**, 13 storeys high

and with 1,000 rooms filled with statues, chapels, manuscripts and murals. Potala was the winter palace of the Dalai Lamas and Tibet's political and spiritual headquarters for centuries, and later you will visit the summer palace, **Norbulingka**, a complex of delightful pavilions and gardens outside the city.

DAY 9 LHASA B L D

One of the three great monasteries of Tibet, **Drepung Monastery** is a religious university where around 600 monks live – in its heyday before the Potala Palace was built there were over 10,000 and it was the largest in the world.

DAY 10 GYANTZE B L D

Leave Lhasa and drive along the **Southern Friendship Highway** in the direction of Kathmandu, over the **Kampa La** mountain pass to **Yamdrok Lake**, the sacred 'holy sapphire' and female guardian of Buddhism in Tibet. Continue past the **Karo La Glacier** to the small town of **Gyantze** and stay overnight at the 3★ *Gyantze Hotel*.

DAY 11 SHIGATZE B L D

This morning visit **Palkhor Chode Monastery** and its nine-storey pyramid-like structure known as a *kumbum* with 76 chapels lined with lavish murals. Continue to **Shigatze** to stay at the *Shandong Mansion Hotel* for two nights.

DAY 12 SHIGATZE B L D

Visit the **Tashilhunpo Monastery**, founded by the first Dalai Lama in the 15th century and traditional seat of his second-in-command, the Panchen Lama, ever since. See the jewel-encrusted tomb of the tragic 10th Panchen Lama, the 86ft-high **Maitreya Buddha statue**, murals and the immense **Thangka Wall**.

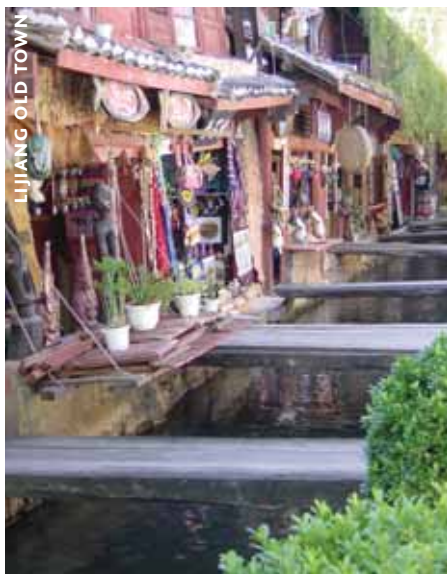
DAY 13 LHASA B L D

Drive back to **Lhasa**, 'the Ground of the Gods', through rugged scenery along the **Northern Friendship Highway** for a final night in Tibet.

DAY 14 ZHONGDIAN B L D

Fly to **Zhongdian** in the north-west of China's Yunnan province, a photogenic town perched on a Himalayan plateau and once a staging post on the **Southern Silk Road** down to Vietnam. It was renamed **Shangri La** a few years ago due to its natural beauty, and we stay two nights in this 'fabled paradise' at the 4★ *Shiner Hotel*.





LIJIANG OLD TOWN

DAY 15 ZHONGDIAN (B L D)

Visit **Songzanlin Monastery**, dating from the 16th century and rebuilt following damage during the 1959 invasion of Tibet. Drive out to **Napa** and **Shudu Lakes**, surrounded by snowy mountains, forests, rich pastures and picturesque hillside hamlets. Visit one of these to meet a local Tibetan family and enjoy a hearty home-cooked dinner.

DAY 16 LIJIANG (B L)

Drive south to **Lijiang**, once the capital of the Naxi kingdom, en-route admiring the world's deepest canyon at **Tiger Leaping Gorge** where the **Yangtze** is forced through a narrow gap in the rocks. In Lijiang visit the local beauty spots **Black Dragon Pool** and **Lion Hill**, and listen to the traditional music of the **Naxi orchestra**. Stay two nights at 4★ **Old Town Hotel**.

DAY 17 LIJIANG (B L)

Take a cable car ride up sacred **Jade Dragon Snow Mountain** and the southernmost glacier in the northern hemisphere, and explore Lijiang's quaint old town with its 354 bridges and elaborately carved Naxi houses.

DAY 18 DALI (B L D)

Drive south through the green, rural lands of the Bai people and pass **Erhai Lake** to Dali, to stay at the 4★ **Landscape Hotel** for the night. Ascend **Cangshan**



LHASA

Mountain by chairlift for glorious panoramas, see the elegant, thousand-year-old towers of the **Song Dynasty Three Pagodas** and the exotic **Catholic Church**, and shop in the pleasant old quarter.

DAY 19 KUNMING (B)

Fly to **Kunming**, the capital of **Yunnan** and staging post along the old trading route to neighbouring **Burma**, part of the southern **Silk Road**, and stay two nights at the 4★ **Jinjiang Hotel**.

DAY 20 KUNMING (B L)

Today visit the extraordinary **Stone Forest**, a hundred square miles of thin, jagged limestone towers like giant trees. Visit the **Western Hills** that locals say resemble a beautiful girl reclining on the banks of **Dianchi Lake**, and the **Tang Dynasty Bamboo Temple**.

DAY 21 SHANGHAI (B)

Fly to **Shanghai** for an overnight stay at the 4★ **Shanghai Ocean Hotel**.

DAY 22 DEPART CHINA (B)

Fly non-stop from **Shanghai** to **London Heathrow** with **China Eastern Airlines**.

Please note that accommodation in Tibet and remote parts of Sichuan and Yunnan is often of a rather spartan nature, with service and meals likewise of a lower standard than encountered elsewhere in China. Roads can be winding and poorly paved, and drives therefore long and bumpy.



BLACK DRAGON POOL

PRIVATE SICHUAN, TIBET & YUNNAN TOURSUPPLEMENT FROM **£95**

If you would like to make this into a private tour just for you and your partner, friends or family, enjoying the benefits of travelling with your own chauffeur and English-speaking guide and choosing your own departure date, please call and ask our tailor-made team on **0207 487 2999** to make arrangements for your own perfect Sichuan, Tibet & Yunnan tour.



THREE PAGODAS - YUNNAN DALI

At the end of your tour, take a high-speed train to the delightful town of **Hangzhou** to enjoy a cruise on the scenic **West Lake**, a visit to a traditional pharmacy and an exquisite manor house and gardens, and a stroll along a quaint old street lined with picturesque houses. Two nights at the 4★ **Best Western Meiyuan Hotel** with breakfast, return **Shanghai-Hangzhou** train journeys and sightseeing tour from **£395** per person twin shared.



For reservations please call **020 7487 2999**

China HOLIDAYS



Introduction to our Themed tours

What better holiday can there be than to pursue a favourite hobby in an exotic country? We have carefully created three themed tours to enable guests to discover something new about their chosen activity and to experience a new culture.



COOKERY SCHOOL

At **Yangshuo** you can learn the art of Chinese cuisine at a charming **cookery school** situated by a riverside, surrounded by karst mountains and rice fields. During a relaxing 6-night stay at the stunning **Yangshuo Resort** you will spend three mornings going to the market to buy fresh ingredients, then learning how to create several traditional dishes that you will then have for lunch. You will have plenty of hands-on experience and recipes so that you can successfully recreate the dishes at home. Every afternoon there is a scenic excursion to one of the quaint villages nearby or local landmarks, and every evening there are **tai chi classes** to thoroughly immerse you in Chinese culture.

SEE PAGES 42–43



BIRD WATCHING

Birdwatchers have long been fascinated by the rich birdlife of China, and in **Sichuan** there are splendid opportunities during the migration season to witness a vast array of endemic and visiting species. Two-thirds of China's endemic bird species are to be found in Sichuan which boasts diverse habitats from the snow-capped peaks and vast grasslands on the Tibetan frontier to sub-tropical forests. Our Birdwatching tour follows the deep valleys in the west of the region, from **Mount Wawashan** northwards through **Wolong, Balang, Maerkang, Hongyuan** and **Zoige** to the breathtakingly lovely **Jiuzhaigou**, accompanied by a local ornithologist. A rare treat for birdwatchers and nature lovers!

SEE PAGES 44–45



GLORIOUS GARDENS

Ideal for a first-time visitor to China, combining as it does the great imperial triangle of **Beijing, Xian** and **Shanghai** with **Guilin, Yangshuo, Hangzhou** and **Suzhou**, and their wonderful formal and botanical gardens. The tour will be accompanied by a local horticultural expert. The Chinese love gardens, and have always used them as much as any other room of their house, traditionally for writing poetry, viewing the moon, taking tea, meditating, playing chess or just admiring the beautiful vistas they have created. But they also have a higher purpose –to symbolise how man can improve on nature to bring balance and harmony to the world.

SEE PAGES 46–47





Cookery School

12 days – Shanghai, Guilin, Yangshuo

A unique holiday amidst the glorious landscapes of Yangshuo, with three mornings at a cookery school learning how to produce a range of authentic and tasty dishes, tai chi classes every evening, a spectacular son et lumiere show, and visits to several supremely picturesque villages, caves and mountains nearby.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Leisurely 6-night stay in Yangshuo

Learn traditional Chinese cookery skills

Learn Tai Chi

Visit ancient farming village of Huangyao

Explore Silver Cave in a karst mountain

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly from London Heathrow non-stop to Shanghai with British Airways.

DAY 2 SHANGHAI **D**

On arrival in Shanghai transfer to the 4★ *Shanghai Ocean Hotel* for a two-night stay. Enjoy a welcome dinner tonight.

DAY 3 SHANGHAI **B L D**

Stroll around the delightful *Yuyuan Garden*, its ponds, pavilions, paths and plants creating an infinitely varied series of exquisite views. This garden was laid out over 400 years ago by an official for his aged parents, and it has changed little since. Admire the jewel-encrusted white jade statues in the *Jade Buddha Temple*, then visit the impressive *Shanghai Museum* that is home to an immense number of China's greatest ancient treasures – bronzes, ceramics, paintings, crafts, calligraphy, furniture and paintings. Tonight attend a spectacular *Acrobatic Show* and marvel at the skill and daring of the artists.

DAY 4 GUILIN **B L**

Fly to Guilin this morning, a city named after its fragrant sweet osmanthus trees that flourish amidst

the dreamy landscapes of karst mountains and rivers. On arrival visit the *Tea Research Institute*, once the exclusive tea garden for the Ming emperors, and nowadays a leading organic producer of fine quality teas. Continue to *Daxu*, a charming, story-book old village of traditional wood and stone houses where life proceeds pretty much as it has done since the Ming dynasty. Stay overnight at the 4★ *Guilin Bravo Hotel*.

DAY 5 YANGSHUO **B L D**

Today enjoy the renowned *Li River Cruise to Yangshuo*. The vistas from the boat are endlessly fascinating and in the distance are numberless limestone peaks shrouded in mist and covered in pine trees. On arrival in Yangshuo, explore the busy *handicraft stalls* along West Street, perfect for last-minute presents, and check in at the 5★ *Yangshuo Green Lotus Hotel* for a six-night stay in a riverview room. Tonight attend a spectacular show, *Impressions of Liu San Jie*, performed on water with the 600-strong cast on bamboo rafts.

DAY 6 YANGSHUO **B L**

This morning is the first cookery class, at the *Yangshuo Cookery School* situated right by the Li



TEA FIELDS GUILIN





River. English-speaking teachers take you to the local market to select the freshest ingredients, then take you through the preparation of five dishes which you will have for lunch, sitting out by the river – you will have plenty of hands-on experience and recipes so that you can successfully recreate the dishes at home. In the afternoon climb **Moon Hill** for fantastic views, and see the 1,400-year-old and 55ft high **Big Banyan Tree** before your first **tai chi** class.

DAY 7 YANGSHUO B L

Today explore **Silver Cave** inside one of the karst mountains, where a clear underground river wends its way past shimmering stalagmites and stalagmites that have created bizarre natural sculptures. Later visit **Jiuxian Garden Village**, a 1,400-year-old traditional village that is the subject of a unique conservation and regeneration project to preserve its culture and architecture with botanical gardens, a tea house, guest house and health centre also being created alongside the renovations of its Ming-era buildings. Take another **tai chi** class this evening.

DAY 8 YANGSHUO B L

Prepare more local specialities at the **cookery school** this morning, and after lunch take a gentle stroll



along the banks of the river, watching women in coolie hats washing their clothes, men fishing and buffalo bathing. Round off a relaxing day with your nightly **tai chi**.

DAY 9 YANGSHUO B L

On the curve of a river, many miles from Yangshuo, is the ancient farming village of **Huangyao**. The flagstones have been polished to a sheen by centuries of footsteps, ancestral temples and shrines abound, graceful bridges span the rivers and creeks, and an air of timelessness pervades the tiny community, surrounded on all sides and thereby isolated from the world by the steep mountains that stand guard over it. **Tai chi** this evening will relax you after your excursion.

DAY 10 YANGSHUO B L

Spend another morning at the cookery school, mastering new dishes and learning more about the region's cuisine. After lunch, take a short trip out to **Fuli village** where traditional hand-painted paper fans and scrolls are made in the old riverside workshops – and there is certainly plenty of inspiration for painting in the unique scenery around. Enjoy your final **tai chi** class.

DAY 11 DEPART CHINA B L

Drive back to Guilin and fly to Hong Kong to connect with an overnight flight to London Heathrow with British Airways, arriving early on Day 12.



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SUPPLEMENT FROM

£95

You can adapt any tour in our brochure to create your own bespoke China Holiday. Simply call our expert team to tailor-make a tour just for you, and you can arrange to stay longer in any particular place, upgrade your hotels, add more meals or extra visits – whatever you choose. Enjoy a bespoke Cookery School tour exclusively for you with your own chauffeur and guide, by calling **020 7487 2999**.

Round off your week in the rural heartland of China with a relaxing stay on glamorous Hainan Island, known as the Hawaii of the Orient. Stay four nights at the 5★ Yalong Bay Resort which boasts superb facilities, and enjoy an included visit to Monkey Island's macaque nature reserve. Prices from £595 per person twin shared.



Bird Watching

21 days – Beijing, Chengdu, Wawushan, Danba, Rilong, Maerkang, Hongyuan, Zoige, Jiuzhaigou, Chengdu, Beijing

Some of China's rarest birds make their home in the deep valleys, rugged mountains and high grasslands of western Sichuan, and here you can discover around two-thirds of China's endemic bird species – gamebirds, parrotbills, robins and laughingthrushes particularly – whilst admiring spectacular scenery, Giant Pandas and Tibetan culture.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Spot China's rarest endemic birds amidst stunning scenery

View at mountain top, alpine meadow, wetland, forest, grassland habitats

Experience Tibetan culture

See Giant Pandas and the Giant Buddha

Jiuzhaigou Valley Scenic Area



MAERKANG

DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly non-stop from London Heathrow to Beijing with Air China.

DAY 2 BEIJING

Upon arrival in Beijing transfer to the 4★ *Novotel Xinqiao Hotel* for an overnight stay.

DAY 3 CHENGDU B L

Fly to the colourful and cheerful capital of Sichuan, Chengdu, to stay two nights at the 5★ *Tibet Hotel*.

DAY 4 CHENGDU B L D

Get close to one of the world's most adorable and endangered animals at the **Panda Research Base** here which both supports those living in the wild and also works on a successful captive breeding programme. Meet your local ornithologist who will be with you until Day 19, and spend the afternoon birdwatching at a local beauty spot in the city, **Huanhua Brook**.

DAY 5 WAWUSHAN B L D

Drive to the magnificent **Giant Buddha** in Leshan, a 233ft high statue hewn into the cliffside in the 8th century, and UNESCO World Heritage Site, before continuing to **Wawu Mountain** to stay overnight at the 4★ *Wawushan Grand Hotel* at the base of the mountain. Sub-tropical Mount Wawushan is the largest **National Primeval Forest Park** in China, home to 300 species of birds, 31 species of amphibians, 3,500 species of plants and also the Red Panda. On the lower slopes of Wawushan are evergreen broadleaf woodland, and deciduous and coniferous forests higher up with rhododendron and bamboo. A network of forest trails and the cable car provide easy access to all areas of the mountain.

DAYS 6 & 7 WAWUSHAN B L D

In the early mornings take the cable car to the top of **Mt Wawushan** (9,284ft above sea level), perhaps seeing its great display of azaleas between February and April. Bird watching with your local ornithologist, sightings of the following are possible at different levels of the mountain - woodpeckers, cuckoos, speckled wood pigeons, shrikes, corvids, flycatchers, redstarts, tits, a dozen species of warblers, laughingthrushes, grey-hooded and golden parrotbills, Sichuan treecreeper, golden bush robin, golden-breasted fulvetta, Temminck's Tragopan, Lady Amherst's pheasant and Emei Shan Liocichla. Stay at the 4★ *Gongtong Hotel* for two nights, further up the mountainside.

DAY 8 DANBA B L D

Drive north to Danba, a charming and prosperous region of Tibetan and Qiang minority villages, noted for their slender watchtowers that were built both for defense and communication between neighbouring villages. The distinctive architecture is sturdy and attractive – houses are like mini-fortresses, and of 3 storeys, livestock on the ground floor, the family on the first and grain and crops upstairs. Overnight at the *Jiaju Tibetan Guest House*.

DAY 9 RILONG B L D

Head to the **Mountain of the Four Ladies, Siguniangshan**, where the landscapes are breathtaking – jagged snow-capped peaks, lush alpine meadows, forests and streams. Stay two nights at the 4★ *New Siguniangshan Hotel*. Here we are close to the famous **Wolong birding area** in Balangshan, an area particularly rich in pheasants, and we may also see the local slaty bunting and Indian blue robin.



JIUZHAIGOU





SICHUAN

DAY 10 RILONG B L D

Today is spent at Balangshan, walking or driving to different high altitude spots for the best opportunities to see a variety of species in their habitats. Endemic birds possibly seen today include the snow partridge, Tibetan snowcock, white-eared pheasant, Koklass pheasant, golden pheasant, grandala, spectacled parrotbill, and firethroat.

DAY 11 MAERKANG B L D

Drive north from Rilong to Maerkang (Barkham) with birdwatching opportunities along the way of crested tit warblers, Verreaux's monal partridge, and three banded rosefinch. Stay two nights at the 4★ Jiarong Hotel.

DAY 12 MAERKANG B L D

Bird watching in the Mengbishan area, looking for the local residents – the Chinese white-browed or the pink-rumped rosefinches, white-winged or collared grosbeaks, hill pigeon, Eurasian crag martin, Hodgson's redbird and white-throated redbird, blue rock thrush and winter wren, maroon-backed accentor, Himalayan red-flanked bluetail, Severtzov's grouse, blood pheasant, black woodpecker, Hume's leaf and yellow-streaked warblers, goldcrest, Chinese babax, giant laughingthrush, Chinese fulvetta and Tibetan siskin.

DAY 13 HONGYUAN B L D

Head into the Tibetan grasslands today, where shepherds tend their yaks and sheep under vast skies, and Buddhist chortens and nomadic yurts dot the landscape. The area is also known as the Red Plain, not for its colour, but to commemorate the Long March by Mao's Red Army across this empty corner of Sichuan in 1934-6. Stay at the 3★ Hongyuan Hotel. Search for the rare Sichuan jay, Songar and white-browed tits, plain and Elliotts laughingthrushes.

DAY 14 ZOIGE B L D

High on the Tibetan plateau at Zoige (Ruoergai), visit the striking Dazha Monastery and the dramatic S-shaped First Bend of the Yellow River at the Sichuan-Gansu border. Stay two nights at the modest 2★ Ruoergai Hotel.



MAERKANG

DAY 15 ZOIGE B L D

At the vast wetlands around Flower Lake we find many waders and waterbirds, such as the black-necked crane, saker falcon, Chinese grey shrike, upland buzzards, blue eared pheasant, red crested pochard, ruddy shelducks, as well as black winged snowfinches, white browed tits, Tibetan larks and Godlewski buntings.

DAY 16 JIUZHAIGOU B L D

On the drive over the Lamaling mountain pass to Jiuzhaigou, a national park and area of outstanding natural beauty, we may see the Sukatschev laughingthrush, Przevalski nuthatch, Himalayan orange-flanked bush robin and ring necked pheasant. Stay three nights at the 4★ Qianhe Hotel.

DAYS 17 & 18 JIUZHAIGOU B L D

Search for the Rufous headed robin who is rarely seen beyond the spruce forests in the park environs here, also the Chinese nuthatch, Chinese leaf warbler and Chinese grouse, sooty tit, spotted laughingthrush, chestnut-throated partridge, the Sichuan wood owl, spectacled parrotbill, three-toed woodpecker and slaty-backed flycatchers. But perhaps above all, enjoy the magical scenery in this fairytale national park.

DAY 19 CHENGDU B L D Reluctantly depart from this beautiful region, returning to Chengdu for an overnight stay. This evening admire the traditional architecture and charming atmosphere of Kuanzhai Lanes, and attend an intriguing and entertaining performance of Sichuan face-changing Opera.

DAY 20 CHENGDU B

Enjoy your free time in Chengdu today.

DAY 21 DEPART CHINA B

Fly from Chengdu to London Heathrow via Beijing with Air China.

Fly out to China early to visit Chengde where the Emperors of China had their beautiful summer palace, high in the cool hills. Visit the palace, gardens and eight outer temples of the Mountain Retreat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Drive from Beijing to Chengde via the Great Wall, three nights at the 4★ Yunshan Hotel with breakfast, train back to Beijing. Price from £355 per person twin shared.

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China's Glorious Gardens

16 days – Beijing, Xian, Guilin, Yangshuo, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Shanghai

One of the many delights of China are her gardens, exquisitely landscaped with ponds and flowers, bridges and pavilions, real oases of beauty and repose. In many cities are also botanical gardens filled with rare species and boosted by excellent research and which we tour with local horticultural experts.



SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Local horticultural experts in Beijing, Guilin and Suzhou

Beijing Opera and *son et lumiere* show

4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Stay at charming Mountain Retreat in Yangshuo

Visit the little-known Tea Research Institute in Guilin



DAY 1 DEPART UK

Fly from London Heathrow to Beijing with British Airways.

DAY 2 BEIJING D

Arrive in Beijing and stay two nights at the 4★ *Super House International Hotel*. Tonight meet your tour manager and fellow travellers over a welcome dinner.

DAY 3 BEIJING B L D

This morning visit Beijing's vast **Botanical Gardens** and see its 6,000 species of plants. Tour the gardens of rose, lilac, peony, medicinal herbs, an arboretum, and the conservatory. Later, wander through the formal gardens of the imperial **Summer Palace** created by the ruthless former concubine, Empress Cixi. Tonight enjoy an intriguing performance of Beijing Opera which blends singing, pantomime and acrobatics with exaggerated costumes and make-up to create an unforgettable and unique interpretation of fairy stories and scenes from history.

DAY 4 XIAN B L D

Fly to Xian to stay two nights at the 4★ *Bell Tower Hotel*. Visit the first-class **Shaanxi Provincial Museum**. Tonight enjoy a performance of elegant and courtly dances from the **Tang Dynasty** (7th-10th century AD).

DAY 5 XIAN B L

Rows and rows of life-sized, individually-crafted **Terracotta Warriors** with their horses, chariots and weapons, have guarded the tomb of China's first emperor for over 2,000 years, and are on display in the pits where they were accidentally unearthed in the 1970s. Back in the city, climb onto the great **City Wall**.

DAY 6 GUILIN B L

Fly to Guilin, set amidst breathtaking landscapes of karst mountains, green fields and winding rivers. Stay two nights at the 4★ *Guilin Bravo Hotel* and visit **Reed Flute Cave**, filled with colourfully illuminated stalagmites, stalagmites and other bizarre rock formations.

DAY 7 GUILIN B L

Today explore the 166-acre **Botanical Gardens** of Guilin, filled with exotic and endangered plants, then continue to the former imperial tea garden, nowadays one of the country's foremost tea research institutes. Finally, visit **Daxu**, a charming, story-book old village of traditional wood and stone houses where life proceeds pretty much as it has done since the Ming dynasty.

DAY 8 YANGSHUO B L D

On the renowned **Li River Cruise** to Yangshuo admire the endlessly fascinating vistas from the boat of numberless limestone peaks shrouded in mist and covered in pine trees. On arrival in Yangshuo, explore the busy **handicraft stalls** along West Street, and check in at the waterside *Mountain Retreat Lodge* for two nights. Tonight attend a spectacular show, *Impressions of Liu San Jie*, performed on water with the 600-strong cast on bamboo rafts.

DAY 9 YANGSHUO B L D

After visiting the local market with a chef, spend the morning at a cookery school located in the heart of rural Yangshuo, learning how to produce a range of authentic and tasty dishes for your lunch. Take a gentle stroll along the banks of the **Yulong River**, then visit quaint **Jiuxian**, an almost timeless village.

Extend your holiday with extra nights in Beijing at the start or end of your tour of China's gardens. Wander through the old hutong district of Shichahai with its traditional courtyard houses, climb the Drum Tower, learn to make dumplings or take a rickshaw ride, the choice is yours. Extra nights at the Capital Hotel are from £45 per person twin shared with breakfast included.





GUILIN



YANGSHUO



SHANGHAI

DAY 10 HANGZHOU (B L)

Fly to Hangzhou and stay two nights at the 4★ *Best Western Meiyuan Hotel*. Enjoy scenes from the olden days along **Qinghefang Street** and sample some of the delicious local snacks there.

DAY 11 HANGZHOU (B L)

Take a romantic cruise on **West Lake** with its landscaped banks, temples, pagodas and distant hills, then visit a **Traditional Pharmacy** and Hangzhou's **Botanical Gardens**.

DAY 12 SUZHOU (B L)

Visit the extravagant **manor house** of a local 19th century businessman before taking the train to Suzhou, famous for its waterways, silk, gardens and beautiful girls. Stay two nights at the 4★ *Grand Garden Hotel*, and admire **Panmen City Gate**, the only land and water gate left in the world.

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GLORIOUS GARDENS TOUR**
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FROM
£95**

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DAY 13 SUZHOU (B L)

Learn about how the relationship between man and nature is expressed in Chinese landscaping at three of Suzhou's best loved gardens, the **Garden of the Master of the Nets**, **Stone Lion Grove**, and the **Humble Administrator's Garden**.

DAY 14 SHANGHAI (B L)

Drive to Shanghai to stay two nights at the 4★ *Shanghai Ocean Hotel*. Explore the **Flower Port**, a joint Sino-Dutch venture for the spread of horticultural expertise and trade, and which in springtime is a replica of the Keukenhof, boasts chrysanthemums, lotus and hyacinth.



SUZHOU

DAY 15 SHANGHAI (B L)

Enjoy **Yuyuan Garden**, a perfect example of a Chinese garden with enchanting views of pools, rockeries, trees and elegant pavilions. Continue to the **Jade Buddha Temple** where two milky-white statues are decorated with jewels, and finally visit **Shanghai Museum**.

DAY 16 DEPART CHINA (B)

Fly back to London Heathrow aboard British Airways.

Pick & Mix-Day Tours

BEIJING

BJ 01				
One day tour to the Great Wall at Badaling , lunch, Changling of Ming Tombs, Cloisonné Factory, Peking Duck dinner.				
08:30-19:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£140	£90	£80	£70

BJ 02				
One day tour to Tiananmen Square , Forbidden City, lunch, Panda Hall, Summer Palace, Dinner and Legend of Kungfu Show.				
08:30-21:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£130	£85	£75	£65

BJ 03				
Half day tour to the Temple of Heaven with lunch included.				
09:30-14:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£100	£60	£50	£35

BJ 04				
Half day Hutong Tour by rickshaw to see real life in China, followed by learning how to make dumplings and have lunch in a local family.				
10:00-14:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£105	£60	£55	£35

BJ 05				
Half day tour to the Great Wall at Mutianyu with lunch. (excludes cable car RMB80/ per person, round trip)				
8:30-16:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£130	£75	£60	£40

BJ 06				
Day 1: You will be transferred to the railway station for the train to Chengde , check in at Chengde Yunshan Hotel for one night, dinner included. And stay one night in 4★Yunshan hotel.				
Day 2: Visit the Universal Peace Temple , Little Potala Palace , after lunch; you will be transferred to the station for the train back to Beijing. On arrival, transfer to your hotel.				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£295	£190	£170	£160

BJ 08				
Explore the awe-inspiring Great Wall of China at Jinshanling section (125 kilometres/78 miles from Beijing centre) and you will be on the wall for approximately 3 hours (returning to the same point) this is a more remote and less frequented section of the wall, lunch included.				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£175	£100	£75	£50

BJ 11				
Full day tour to the Great Wall of China at Badaling , the Sacred Road and Ming Tombs, lunch included.				
Full Day with lunch	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£130	£78	£68	£46

BJ 12				
Full day tour to Tiananmen Square , Forbidden City, Jingshan Park, and Temple of Heaven, lunch included.				
Full Day with lunch	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£115	£70	£60	£50

BJ 13				
Full day tour to Temple of Heaven , Factory 798, and Beihai Park, lunch included.				
Full Day with lunch	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£110	£70	£60	£40

BJ 14				
Full day tour to Beijing Botanical Gardens and Summer Palace, lunch included.				
Full Day with lunch	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£110	£65	£58	£40

BJ 15				
Full day tour to Lama Temple , Confucius Temple, Jingshan Park, and explore the quaint Hutong District of Shichahai, lunch included.				
Full Day with lunch	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£110	£68	£58	£40

BJ 16				
Full day tour to Fragrant Mountain and Summer Palace outside the city, lunch included.				
Full Day with lunch	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£105	£60	£52	£35

Railway station / Hotel , one way/per person(include driver and guide)				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£40	£25	£20	£15

Airport / Hotel , one way/per person(include driver and guide)				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£55	£35	£30	£20

XI'AN

XI 01				
Full day tour to visit Terracotta Warriors Museum , Great Mosque and market. Lunch and dumpling banquet dinner included.				
08:30-19:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£120	£100	£90	£80

XI 02				
Full day tour to visit Terracotta Warriors Museum , Great Mosque and market. Lunch and Tang Dynasty Show dinner included.				
08:30-21:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£140	£110	£100	£90

XI 03				
Day tour to the City Wall , Big Wild Goose Pagoda, Provincial Museum, Great Mosque and market. Lunch included.				
09:00-18:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£90	£70	£65	£60

Railway station / Hotel , one way/per person(include driver and guide)				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£45	£35	£25	£14

Airport / Hotel , one way/per person(include driver and guide)				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£50	£40	£30	£15



SHANGHAI

SH 01				
Full day tour to the Shanghai Museum, Jade Buddha Temple, Old Town, Bund, Yu Garden, Nanjing Road. Lunch & dinner with Acrobatic show.				
09:00-21:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£105	£90	£80	£70
SH 02				
Car transfer to Tongli, visit the Tuisi Garden, Jiayin Hall with lunch. Back to Shanghai in the afternoon and visit Silk Factory in Shanghai. Lunch included.				
09:00-17:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£110	£70	£55	£45
SH 03				
Private car transfer to Suzhou for the day tour to Humble Administrator Garden, Pan Gate, Grand Canal Cruise, Silk Factory with lunch & dinner. Transfer back to the hotel in Shanghai. Lunch and dinner included.				
09:00-17:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£125	£75	£60	£55
SH 04				
Transfer to the station for the train to Hangzhou. Full day tour to West Lake Cruise, Lingyin Temple, Six Harmony Pagoda and Tea Farm. Transfer back to the station for the train back to Shanghai. Lunch included.				
09:00-19:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£200	£130	£110	£85
SH 05 (inclusive 1 night 4★ Suzhou Garden Hotel)				
Day 1: Car transfer from Shanghai to Suzhou, check in at 4★ Suzhou Garden Hotel for one night, visit Humble Administration Garden, Lingering Garden and Pan Gate. Lunch and dinner included.				
Day 2: In the morning, drive to Zhouzhuang Watertown, visit Shen Family Residence, the Milou Tower and the Chengxu Taoist Temple. Take a short cruise on the Canal through the village. Have your lunch in Zhouzhuang. Drive back to Shanghai. Breakfast and lunch included.				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£300	£185	£165	£155
Railway station / Hotel, one way/per person(include driver and guide)				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£45	£25	£20	£15
Airport / Hotel, one way/per person(include driver and guide)				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Hongqiao Airport Price	£45	£25	£20	£15
Pudong Airport Price	£55	£35	£25	£20

GUILIN

GL 01				
One day tour of Li River Cruise, lunch on the boat, sightseeing in Yangshuo, drive back to Guilin. After the dinner, enjoy the Cormorant fishing show.				
08:30-21:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£145	£110	£95	£80
GL 02				
Half day tour to visit the Fubo Hill, Reed Flute Cave with lunch.				
09:00-13:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£80	£55	£50	£45

GL 03				
Full day tour to Longsheng Minority Area including family visit and Minority dance show. Drive back to Guilin in the afternoon. Lunch included.				
08:30-19:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£210	£110	£90	£80
GL04 Guilin/Longsheng/Guilin				
Today transfer to Longsheng (approximately 2 hours) to visit the Dragons Backbone area to view the rice terraces. In the afternoon, transfer back to Guilin to see the Cormorant Fishing show. Lunch and dinner included.				
08:30-19:30	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£220	£120	£100	£85
Railway station / Hotel one way/per person (include guide and driver) in Guilin				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£35	£25	£20	£15
Airport / Hotel one way/per person (include guide and driver) in Guilin				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£45	£30	£25	£22

CHENGDU

CD 01				
Full day tour to Panda Institute, Wenshu Monastery, Tea House, Wangjianglou Pavilion with lunch and dinner.				
09:00-19:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£135	£95	£75	£65
CD 02				
Full day tour to Leshan Mountain, Giant Buddha and Wuyou Temple with lunch. Cruise included. Transfer back to Chengdu in the afternoon.				
09:00-19:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£190	£135	£95	£85
CD 11				
Full day tour to Panda Research Center, Kuanzhai Lanes and Wenshu Temple. Lunch included.				
09:00-17:00	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£110	£70	£60	£55
CD 13 - Sichuan Heritage				
Half day tour to the riverside village of Huanglongxi, where parts of the film Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon were filmed.				
Half Day Tour (no lunch)	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£110	£65	£60	£55
Railway station / Hotel, one way/per person(include driver and guide)				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£40	£25	£22	£15
Airport / Hotel, one way/per person(include driver and guide)				
–	1 pax	2 pax	3-5pax	6-9 pax
Price	£45	£30	£25	£20

Airlines

Many of our clients who live outside the south east of England can avoid Heathrow and fly directly from a convenient regional airport with their baggage checked right through to China and with the use of transit lounges in a range of European airports. Air travel is an important part of your holiday both internationally and internally in China. As an authorised IATA agent we are able to book any airline of your choice, and of course you can upgrade your seat for more legroom, a higher luggage allowance, separate check-in, lounge access and better meals. Here is a guide to some of the airlines we can offer.



AIR CHINA

Air China is the National Flag Carrier and operates both Boeing and Airbus aircraft, its economy class seats have a 34 inch seat pitch, in business class it is 60 inches with a 170 degree recline giving an almost flat bed. Air China also offers a first class cabin with a 72 inch seat pitch and excellent food, and passengers in both business and first can take advantage of a complimentary limousine pick-up service with 55 miles of Heathrow.



BRITISH AIRWAYS

British Airways offers a wide range of flights around the world, and connecting flights to Heathrow from other UK airports are also available. There are three classes of cabin on BA flights to China to suit your budget. World Traveller (economy class) seats recline and have a pitch of 31 inches, World Traveller Plus (premium economy) seats have a pitch of 38 inches so more legroom, and a greater recline. Club World (business) seats transform into flat beds, and the upgraded menus on board and airport lounges make the flight much more comfortable and enjoyable. All seats benefit from individual TV screens with a wide choice of entertainment.



CATHAY PACIFIC

CATHAY PACIFIC

Flying directly into Hong Kong and with regional add-ons with Dragon Air, you are able to visit almost anywhere in China with Cathay Pacific. The fixed-back shell seat in economy class means that the person in front of you cannot intrude into your space, and the seat pitch is 32 inches. Business class seats have massage functions and turn into flat beds. All seats have individual screens with a huge range of music, film, radio and TV shows.



CHINA SOUTHERN

CHINA SOUTHERN AIRLINES

China Southern Airlines operates in conjunction with KLM and Air France within Europe. Make use of their extensive regional routes throughout the UK to enable you to fly from the airport closest to you into Beijing and Guangzhou. Economy class seat pitch is a generous 33 inches.



EMIRATES

Add an extra night to your China holiday with a stopover in Dubai when you fly with Emirates. Their fleet of modern Airbus and Boeing aircraft are designed with long-haul travel in mind, with a unique Mood Lighting system and starlit sky for nighttime that helps passengers adjust to the time zone in their destination. Each seat has a personal TV screen with up to 1,200 channels of programmes, seat pitch in economy is 32-33 inches, in business class 48 inches, and first class passengers enjoy private suites and an onboard shower spa.



中國東方航空 CHINA EASTERN



CHINA EASTERN AIRLINES

Fly directly into Shanghai, the perfect gateway for your China Holiday, and onwards to 130 cities in China. China Eastern Airlines now has a modern Airbus A330-200 operating on their London-Shanghai route, the aircraft features 24 business class seats with a 57 inch pitch, inbuilt massage function, and which recline up to 169 degrees giving an almost flat bed. Economy class seats have a generous pitch of 32-34 inches.



VIRGIN ATLANTIC

Virgin Atlantic flies into Shanghai and Hong Kong, all seats with individual seatback TV screens featuring a wide choice of entertainment. Economy class passengers benefit from a seat pitch of 31 inches, and premium economy passengers can enjoy a seat pitch of 38 inches that is wider than normal and with more recline, priority boarding and disembarkation and separate check-in. Upper class (business) passengers can boast complimentary transfers in London, exclusive airport lounges, a swish on-board bar and one of the longest flat beds in the sky.



CLIMATECARE

We are happy to give our clients the opportunity through ClimateCare, a highly respected UK-based company, to offset the carbon emissions that result from their international flights. ClimateCare is one of the world's first and largest organisations in the development of voluntary carbon emission reductions and manages emission reduction projects such as renewable energy, energy efficiency and rainforest restoration across the developing world to drive sustainable development.

Please visit ClimateCare's website www.climatecare.org to calculate the cost of your carbon emissions and make your payment directly to them online, or you can post a cheque to ClimateCare, 112 Magdalen Road, Oxford, OX4 1RQ.





City	Average Temperature and Rainfall	Average Monthly Temperature and Rainfall											
		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Beijing	°C	-4.6	-2.2	4.5	13.1	19.8	24.0	25.8	24.4	19.4	12.4	4.1	-2.7
	mm	3.0	7.4	8.6	19.4	33.1	77.8	192.5	212.3	57.0	24.0	6.6	2.6
Chengdu	°C	5.5	7.5	12.1	17.0	20.9	23.7	25.6	25.1	21.2	16.8	11.9	7.3
	mm	5.9	10.9	21.4	50.7	88.6	111.3	235.5	234.1	118.0	46.4	18.4	5.8
Chongqing	°C	7.5	9.5	14.1	18.8	22.1	25.2	28.6	28.5	23.8	18.6	13.9	9.5
	mm	19.7	19.5	39.3	89.7	157.8	166.4	142.4	138.4	136.3	97.3	47.8	25.0
Guangzhou	°C	13.3	14.4	17.9	21.9	25.6	27.2	28.4	28.1	26.9	23.7	19.4	15.2
	mm	36.9	54.5	80.7	125.0	293.8	287.8	212.7	232.5	189.3	69.2	37.0	24.7
Guilin	°C	7.9	9.1	13.2	18.4	23.0	26.2	28.3	27.7	25.6	20.7	15.1	10.2
	mm	56.9	75.1	128.0	282.3	353.8	311.7	231.7	169.9	63.6	98.4	74.9	54.0
Hangzhou	°C	3.8	5.1	9.3	15.4	20.5	24.3	28.6	28.0	23.3	17.7	21.1	6.3
	mm	62.2	88.7	114.1	130.4	179.9	196.2	126.5	136.5	177.6	77.9	54.7	54.0
Hohhot	°C	-13.1	-9.0	-0.3	7.9	15.3	20.1	21.9	20.1	13.8	6.5	-2.7	-11.0
	mm	3.0	6.4	10.3	18.0	26.8	45.7	102.1	126.4	45.9	24.4	7.1	1.3
Kunming	°C	7.7	9.6	13.0	16.5	19.1	19.5	19.8	19.1	17.5	14.9	11.3	8.2
	mm	11.6	11.2	15.2	21.1	93.0	183.7	212.3	202.2	119.5	85.0	38.6	13.0
Lhasa	°C	-2.3	1.1	4.5	8.3	12.3	15.4	15.1	14.3	12.7	8.2	2.3	-1.7
	mm	0.2	0.5	1.5	5.4	25.4	77.1	129.5	138.7	56.3	7.9	1.6	0.5
Shanghai	°C	3.5	4.6	8.3	14.0	18.8	23.3	27.8	27.7	23.6	18.0	12.3	6.2
	mm	44.0	62.6	78.1	106.7	122.9	158.9	134.2	126.0	150.5	50.1	48.8	40.9
Suzhou	°C	3.4	4.6	8.9	14.8	19.5	24.0	28.5	28.0	23.4	17.9	12.1	6.0
	mm	42.3	64.0	85.3	115.0	122.5	150.3	120.9	133.9	132.2	57.6	48.9	38.5



For reservations please call **020 7487 2999**

China HOLIDAYS



China
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