

#### Day 1: Shanghai

Overnight flight from the UK to Shanghai.

#### Day 2: Shanghai

On arrival make your own way to your chosen hotel in Shanghai.

Overnight: Shanghai

Meals: Breakfast included

#### Day 3: Shanghai

Today enjoy a full day tour of Shanghai with your own private car, driver and guide, visiting some of the most important landmarks and locations in Shanghai, including the Jade Buddha Temple, the Bund, Yu Yuan Gardens, Shanghai Old Street, the French Concession and Xintiandi.

From the Jade Buddha, head over to the Yu Yuan Gardens, a classic creation of the Ming Dynasty. Nearby is Shanghai Old Street which had its origins in the Qing Dynasty.







Shanghai is China's economic power house – where China is most blatantly heading full tilt into the new millennium. Monumental new skyscrapers, glittering department stores, buzzing nightlife – it's all happening in Shanghai, making it China's most exciting city by far...





#### Day 3 cont: Shanghai

After a Shanghainese lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Bund, Shanghai's waterfront, known for its grand display of colonial-era architecture and the wonderful views of both sides of the Huangpu River.

Visit Xintiandi, a stylish nightlife district with many boutiques, pubs, and restaurants and on to Shanghai's Art District. Xintiandi is a good place to return to for dinner this evening.

Finally visit the Shikumen Open House Museum, a well-preserved Shikumen house from the 1920's that displays furniture and articles for daily use during that time.

Overnight: Shanghai

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch included

#### Day 4: Shanghai

Enjoy the day at leisure in Shanghai to explore the city further. A visit to Pudong, Shanghai's riverside commercial and business centre might be a good option today.

Alternatively we recommend making the short journey by train to Suzhou, famous for it's willow-lined canals, Chinese gardens and superb museum. This makes an excellent day trip from Shanghai.

Overnight: Shanghai

Meals: Breakfast included

#### Day 5: Shanghai - Beijing

Make your own way to the railway station for your high speed rail journey to Beijing (2nd Class tickets included).

On arrival in Beijing make your own way to your chosen hotel.

Overnight: Beijing

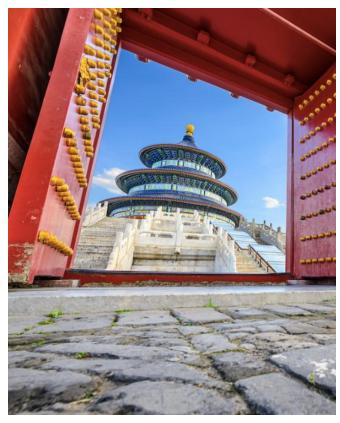
Meals: Breakfast included







With iconic sights such as the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, it is no wonder that Beijing tops most people's lists on a tour of China...





#### Day 6: Beijing

Enjoy a full day to explore Beijing independently.

We suggest a visit to Tiananmen Square, one of the world's largest public squares and home to Chairman Mao's mausoleum.

The Forbidden City is located here and is essential on any visit to Beijing. The Forbidden City was completed in 1420, and was home to 24 emperors, the last of which left Beijing in 1924.

Stroll through what is arguably the bestpreserved example of classical Chinese architecture in the world.

From the Forbidden City it's a short walk up Jingshan Hill, for a birds-eye view of the Forbidden City.

Beijing's traditional Hutong district is nearby and worthy of some exploration on foot. Alternatively, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace and Beijing's Art District are all worthy of some time.

Overnight: Beijing

Meals: Breakfast included

#### Day 7: Beijing

The Great Wall of China is the longest man-made structure in the world.

Explore the much quieter Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, which was first begun in the Northern Qi Dynasty (550-557) and finished in the 17th century.

The 2.5-km stretch of the Wall allows you to walk along its storied length for over an hour and visit twenty-two watchtowers, should you so choose.

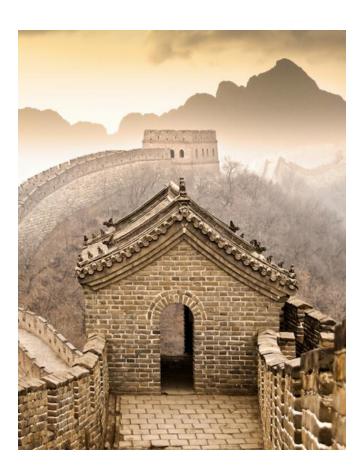
Also enjoy a cable car ride to the top. Lunch in a local restaurant is included.

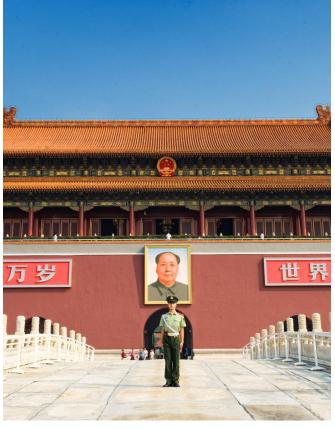
On the way back, pay a visit to this art district of Beijing where Maoist slogans still adorn the walls, to experience a different side of Beijing.

Once a complex that manufactured electronics, Factory Number 798 was divided, rented out, and converted into galleries, artist studios, design companies, restaurants and bars at the turn of the 20th century.

Overnight: Beijing

Meals: Breakfast included







Visit the city of Xian, see the famous Terracotta Warriors and explore this famous city at the start of the great Silk Road, famous for its colourful Old Quarter & grand pagodas...





#### Day 8: Beijing - Xian

Enjoy the morning for some independent explorations of Beijing before making your own way to the Railway Station for your high speed train to Xian.

On arrival in Xian make your own way to your chosen hotel in Xian.

Overnight: Xian

Meals: Breakfast included

#### Day 9: Xian

Enjoy a full day private tour to the Terracotta Warriors.

One of the world's greatest archaeological finds, the Terracotta Warriors were discovered quite by chance in 1974 by a group of peasants digging a well outside of Xian.

These sculptures of soldiers, chariots and horses were funerary statues made to accompany China's first emperor to the afterlife over 2100 years ago.

Overnight: Xian

Meals: Breakfast included



Hong Kong enjoys a magnificent setting around one of the world's great natural harbours.

It's a city which offers a myriad of attractions and a memorable place to conclude your China explorations...

#### Day 10: Xian - Hong Kong

Enjoy the morning for some independent explorations of Xian - perhaps to see the Big and Small Wild Goose Pagodas and explore the streets of the Muslim Quarter.

Make your own way to the airport for your afternoon flight to Hong Kong where you will make your own way to your chosen hotel.

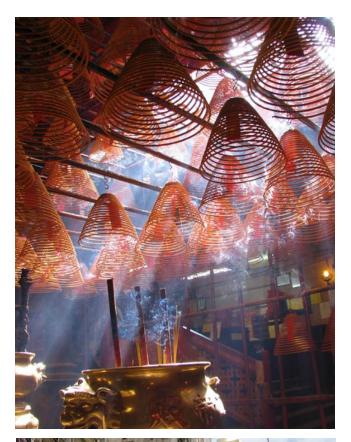
Overnight: Hong Kong Meals: Breakfast included

#### Day 11: Hong Kong

Enjoy the day at leisure to explore Hong Kong.

Highlights include taking the Star Ferry across the harbour, visiting Victoria Peak for the amazing views and taking a round island trip to Stanley Market and Aberdeen Harbour.

Overnight: Hong Kong Meals: Breakfast included









#### Day 12: Hong Kong

Enjoy the day at leisure to explore Hong Kong.

Hong Kong consists of several islands, several of which are very worthy of a visit. It's also very easy to make a day trip to neighbouring Macau should you wish to do so.

Overnight: Hong Kong Meals: Breakfast included

#### Day 13: Hong Kong - UK

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

#### Day 14: UK

Arrive back in the UK (or on day 13 depending on flight schedule).

#### A Journey Into China

# Travelling to China

China's development in the last two decades has been nothing short of astonishing and travel to China has opened up considerably.

A first time tour of China should certainly include the highlights – Beijing, Xian, & Shanghai - the Great Wall, Tiannanmen Square, The Terracotta Warriors and the Bund.

For China's great landscapes, consider adding on a visit to Yunnan, Yangshuo, a Yangtze River Cruise or a trip to Sichuan for the superb cuisine and to see the Giant Pandas.

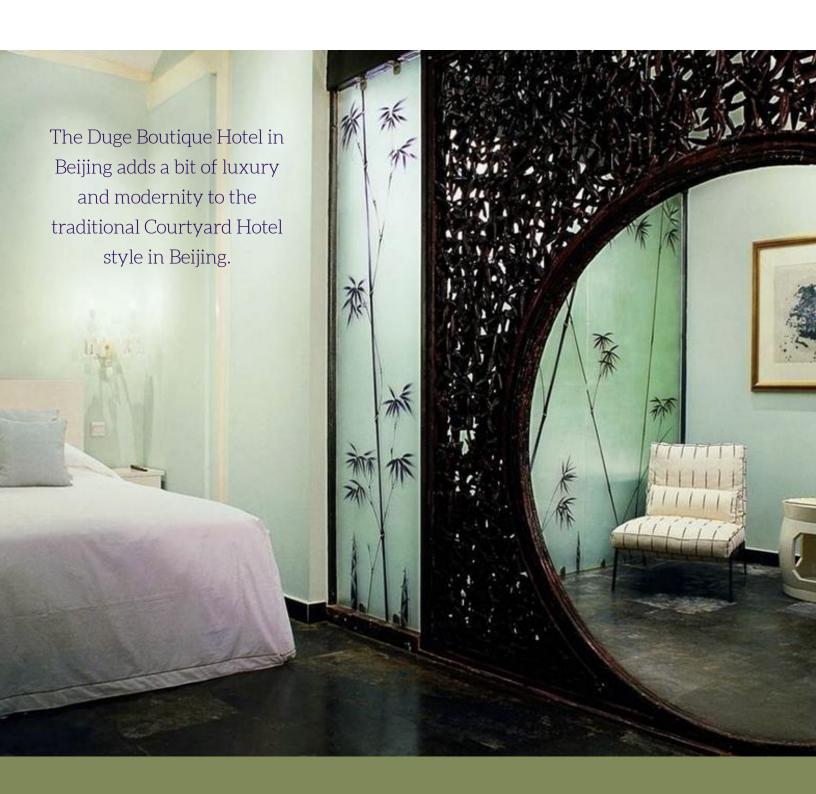
Begin your Highlights of China adventure in Shanghai, China's most commercial city, with echoes of the British colonial era alongside some of the world's tallest buildings. Visit Suzhou, one of China's famous old water towns, with its willow-lined canals and superb gardens and museum.

Fly to Xian, at the start of the Silk Road and see the Terracotta Warriors and explore the magnificent City Walls.

Your Highlights of China journey culminates in Beijing with Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, a cyclo tour of the Hutong District and a spectacular visit to a quieter section of the Great Wall.

Accommodation in China ranges from uber-luxurious to far more simple local style hotels. Although China is dominated by larger hotels catering to big groups, we try to suggest more boutique style hotels in most of our itineraries but the choice of accommodation for your trip can be totally guided by you.

Beijing in particular has a good selection of traditional courtyard style hotels which can be a great way to experience something of the ambience of old-style China. Rooms are usually set around a small courtyard, with 4 poster beds and traditional Chinese furnishings.



China is the fourth largest country in the world and covers an enormous area.

China's aviation industry has grown enormously over the last 2 decades and flying is an excellent way of travelling around China. The advent of Low Cost airlines and fares has made flying even better value in recent years.

China also has an increasingly comprehensive high-quality high-speed rail network making rail travel an attractive option, particularly between Shanghai, Beijing and Xian. The fastest train in the world is the Maglev service from Shanghai Airport into the city, travelling at 460 km-h.



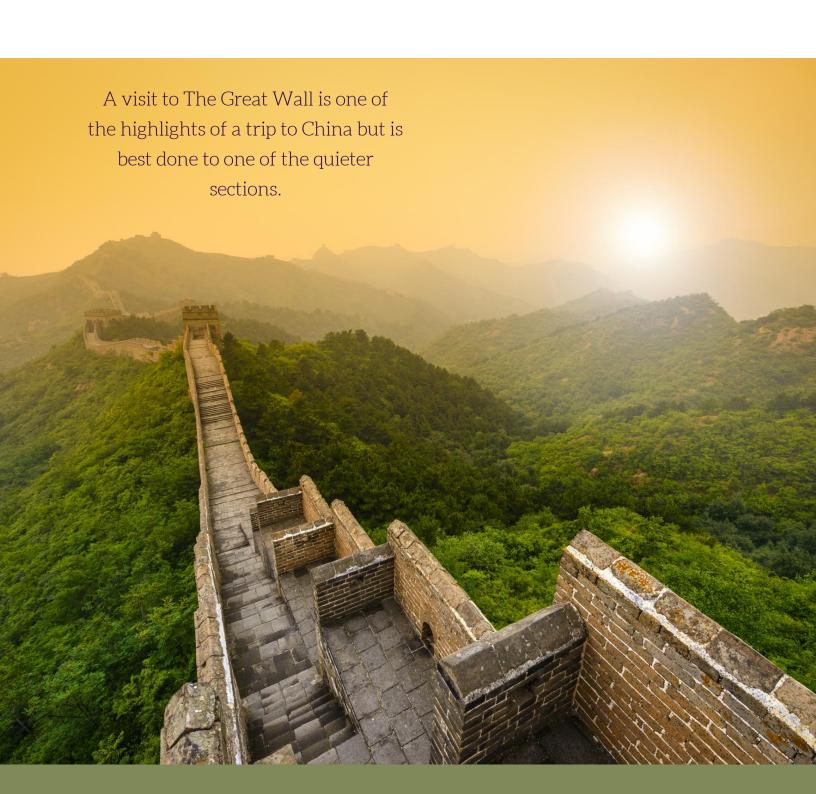
Spring and Autumn can be excellent times of year to visit China with temperatures more reasonable in Beijing, Shanghai and Xian. Winters can be very cold in Beijing and Xian and July and August can be hot, humid and rainy in Shanghai.

A visa is required for all UK passport holders travelling to China. These can be obtained easily and in a few days from the Chinese Visa Service Centre in London via post or in person - we can assist by providing details.

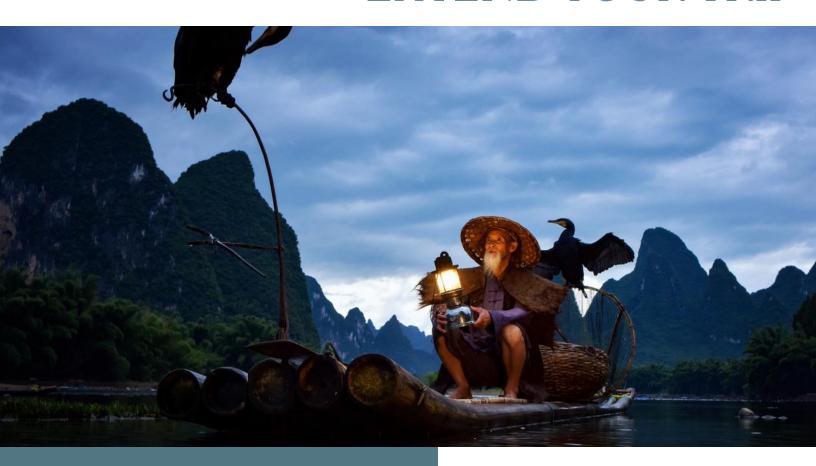


Beijing is considered as perhaps the highlight of a journey to China.

We suggest consider staying in one of Beijing's traditional courtyard style hotels, at least for one night in order to experience something of the old-style of Beijing. When visiting the Great Wall it's important to consider which part of the wall to visit. Mutianyu is the grandest and most well-restored section (normally our preferred option). Jinshanling is ideal for hikers whilst Badaling is great if you prefer the scrum of 1000's of local visitors.



#### EXTEND YOUR TRIP



EXPERIENCE MAJESTIC CHINA

## ADD ON YANGSHUO

3 nights from £375 pp Dramatically located amongst a landscape which could be straight out of a traditional Chinese water-colour painting, Yangshuo is one of the most scenic locations in China.

Yangshuo's mist-covered limestone mountains are cut by the ribbon like green of the Li River, which provides the opportunity for boat journeys through this mystical Chinese landscape.

Yangshuo is the perfect place to chill out for a few days in enchanting surroundings, and for the energetic there are plenty of activities on offer.

#### DATES & PRICES

#### Travel Dates Guide Price

Jun, Sep - Dec:from £2,195 ppJul - Aug:from £2,295 ppJan - May:from £2,250 pp

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