

# China

Hong Kong | Japan | Taiwan | South Korea | India



# Welcome to my China

I founded Wendy Wu Tours 17 years ago, through a desire to share my passion for China by taking people on truly unforgettable journeys into the heart of the country I call home. I want others to experience the iconic sights and magnificent treasures, whilst falling in love with the rich culture and irresistible spirit of this unique land.



吴玲 Wendy

Wendy Wu – Owner, Wendy Wu Tours

## Incredible value

Our Group Tours feature hundreds of inclusions – from unique sightseeing experiences with expert guides, to every delicious meal from start to finish – we'll even take care of your visa. We insist on the best – all your flights, all your transportation, and all your hotels will be of a high standard.

## Unrivalled local expertise

Our hand-picked National Escorts and Local Guides know every corner of China and are renowned for their exceptional service. Their outstanding commitment, encyclopaedic knowledge and warm personalities are all part of the Wendy Wu Tours experience.

## 98% customer satisfaction

Customer satisfaction is our number one priority. We pride ourselves on the joy, fascination and everlasting memories we provide to all who travel with us. Many of our loyal customers choose to travel with us again and again.

## New for 2015

- The Exclusive Collection – our brand new Luxury Tours with exclusive features
- A dedicated Japan section – with specially designed tours
- New range of winter tours – see China from a different perspective
- Single supplements frozen for 2015

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## Award Winning Expertise



# Experience the Real China

Antiquated yet cutting-edge, radically urban yet naturally resplendent, China is a nation of rich heritage and diverse sights – enough to whet the appetite of even the most discerning traveller.

## Beijing

Vibrant capital and imperial treasure trove Beijing is home to a wonderful wealth of sights, from the remarkable Forbidden City to the tranquil harmony of the Temple of Heaven. The city also offers easy access to the magnificent Great Wall of China.

## Shanghai

A vision in neon, steel and glass, Shanghai is China's ever-moving mega-metropolis. Admire the ultra-modern architecture but also discover the colonial and historical gems that give this city its eclectic mix. Escape the city to explore the charming gardens of Suzhou and Hangzhou.

## Chengdu

Chengdu is the relaxed and cheery capital of Sichuan province. Chengdu is best known for being home to everyone's favourite bear – the Giant Panda and is the gateway to the spectacular Nine Villages Valley.

## Guilin

Set in a landscape of gnarled karst formations, Guilin is the cast off point for cruises on the Li River. Glide through an enthralling panorama of otherworldly peaks to reach charming Yangshuo, a village marooned in an emerald sea of paddy fields and dotted with dramatic peaks.

## Yangtze

The Yangtze River is a powerful force in China's history, culture and economy. A cruise on its mighty waters brings together a plethora of unmissable sights including the colossal Three Gorges Dam and the dramatic Three Gorges themselves.

## Xian

Xian is an illustrious city with a history spanning 3,100 years. This history is around every corner – stroll on the old city walls, soak up the atmosphere in the alleys of the Muslim Quarter and inspect the ranks of the incredible Terracotta Warriors.

## Lhasa

A city on the roof of the world, Lhasa is the beating heart of Tibet. Leave the modern city behind as you circle the Barkhor circuit and step into the flickering candle light of the sacred Jokhang Temple. Get lost in the majestic Potala palace and explore Tibet as far afield as Everest itself.

## Silk Road

Stories of the Silk Road tell of intrepid adventurers and colourful camel caravans. Follow this legendary trade route through starkly beautiful desert and mountain scenery, to the remote and exotic cities of Kashgar, Tashkent and Samarkand.

## Kunming & Yunnan

Yunnan is China's most diverse and intriguing province. Journey from verdant forest to extraordinary mountain landscapes and meet the local indigenous cultures. Kunming, China's most laidback city is its gateway.

## Hong Kong & Macau

Sophisticated and lively, Hong Kong's colonial influences and gleaming skyscrapers mask a distinctly Chinese character. Its neighbour, Macau is a former Portuguese colony and offers a rich heritage and unique gastronomy.



# Planning Your Trip

Whether you wish to travel to China or beyond, Wendy Wu Tours has the experience and expertise to arrange your ideal holiday travelling in a style that suits you.

## Group tours to China & Beyond



Pages 78-85

### Winter Tours

Discover China in the magical depths of winter when you can experience colourful festivities like Chinese New Year, astounding ice creations at the Harbin Ice and Snow Festival or frost-tipped beauty of Nine Villages Valley.

Pages 104-123

### Go Beyond

Wendy Wu Tours may specialise in China but we have experience throughout Asia. Wherever you want to explore, from the depths of the Gobi Desert, to the majesty of the Taj Mahal or the hi-tech metropolis of Seoul, we'll have something for you. Visit our website for even more destinations.

Pages 14-43

### Classic Tours

Ranging from a 9 day concise holiday to a 26 day epic adventure, our classic tours offer the opportunity to tick all the big sights off of your list, whether it's the Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors or giant pandas and the mighty Yangtze or a combination of them all.

**Most of our Classic Tours plus many others in the brochure can be arranged privately. Contact us for more details.**



Pages 86-93

### RHS Garden Tours

Developed in association with the Royal Horticultural Society, our Garden Tours feature China's top horticultural highlights, such as Shanghai's Chenshan Botanical Gardens, the classical oriental gardens of Suzhou and the resplendent nature of Mt Emei and Mt Huang.

Pages 44-61

### Off the Beaten Track

For the China connoisseur or a more intrepid adventurer, these tours offer a more in-depth exploration to those lesser discovered destinations, such as Tibet, the Silk Road and Sichuan Province.

Pages 62-77

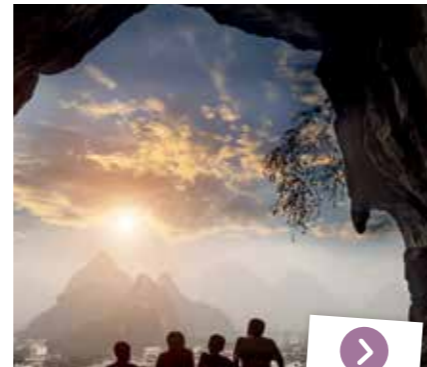
### Exclusive Collection

The Exclusive Collection perfectly blends our classic tour formula with all the style and luxury that a more discerning traveller would expect. Enjoy small group sizes, exclusive experiences, top gastronomy and world class hotels on these holidays of a lifetime.

Pages 94-103

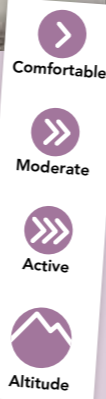
### Japan Tours

Japan offers a truly unforgettable and fascinating experience – that's why we've expanded our Japan programme this year to include a whole host of new adventures packed with essential sights such as Kyoto, Hiroshima and Mt Fuji.



### Tour Grade

Our Group Tours are graded as **Comfortable**, **Moderate** and **Active** to reflect the level of fitness required. Alternatively, our range of Private Tours are more flexible and can better cater for individual needs. The icon on each tour page refers to the tour grading and the mountain icon on the map will tell you the altitude reached on any given tour where applicable. The specific reasons for a particular grading for each tour are clearly described in the Tour Dossiers which you can find on our website. See page 134, or contact us if you require any advice.



# Booking Your Trip

Booking your holiday should be simple and straightforward, so Wendy Wu Tours is committed to supporting you through every element of the booking process right through until after your holiday has finished.

## Booking made easy

### 1. Choose your experience

Get a taste of the tours in this brochure. Visit our website for more details, including interactive maps, destination information, photos, videos, reviews, updates and detailed tour dossiers.

Choose the style of trip that suits you:

- **Fully Inclusive Group Tours**
- **Flexible Private Tours**
- **Bespoke Tailor-Made Holidays**

**Still not sure?** Contact our experienced Travel Consultants to talk through your options.

### 2. Check availability

Speak to our expert Travel Consultants, or your preferred Travel Agent, and we will check the tour availability, find the best flights and confirm your full package price.

### 3. Booking & deposit

Group Tour places can usually be confirmed immediately upon payment of a deposit of £350 per person. Private Touring arrangements can usually be confirmed within 48 hours.

Once your tour is complete, we will send you confirmation by email. By making a booking you are confirming that you have read the tour dossier, are fit enough to fully participate in your tour, will travel with adequate travel insurance and agree to the booking conditions at the back of the brochure.

### 4. Final payment

The balance of your payment is due 60 days before departure and you will be issued with your travel tickets and documentation approximately two weeks before travel.

### Regional flights and upgrades

Enjoy the freedom to choose who you fly with and where you fly from. We work with most major airlines and offer flights from regional airports across the UK – often with no additional supplement.

All of our tour prices are based on flying Economy Class, but if you fancy a little bit of luxury and lots more legroom, we have specially negotiated rates on Premium Economy and Business Class fares. Depending on your budget you can upgrade one way or for the entire return trip.

### Stopovers & Extensions

Why not break your trip to the Far East with a stopover – most airlines won't charge you any extra for stopping over en route. We are able to book your hotel, transfers and touring and add it to your trip. World class destinations such as Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Hong Kong are just a few of the options available between mainland China and the UK. See pages 124-129 for inspiration. If you want to stay longer in Shanghai, Beijing or wherever your trip starts or finishes, we are able to add extra nights onto your trip for a small supplement.



### Add finishing touches

We want to make your holiday enjoyable and stress-free and can help you book:

- ✓ **Airport Lounges** from £25
- ✓ **Airport Parking** from £4 per day
- ✓ **Airport Hotels** from £35 per night
- ✓ **Travel Insurance** See page 137 for details of our recommended policy

Please speak to our experienced Travel Consultants who will happily provide advice and arrange these for you.

### Thank you for your loyalty

Many of our customers enjoy the Wendy Wu Tours experience so much that they travel with us again and again. What's more, they also recommend us to their friends and family. We really appreciate this loyalty and want to reward you for it.



■ **Become a Wendy Wu Tours Champion**  
Recommend us to your friends and we'll send you a hamper as a thank you for the first booking we receive. Plus for every subsequent booking, we'll send you £50 worth of shopping vouchers.

■ **Loyalty Discount**  
When you book your second holiday, we'll give you a £100pp discount.

■ **Become a Wendy Wu Tours VIP**  
Book three trips or more and we'll give you £250 off the total cost of your holiday.

Conditions apply. Rewards and discounts cannot be combined. Refer to our website for full details.

# The Wendy Wu Tours Difference

## 10 reasons why our customers choose Wendy Wu Tours

### 1. No one knows China like we do

All our expert Travel Consultants have travelled throughout China and would love to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you. They can provide you with detailed information about our tours, advice on which itinerary and trip type best suits your tastes, and will help personalise your holiday.

### 2. We go where others don't

Wendy Wu Tours is a pioneer of group travel into China. Wendy took her first group of intrepid travellers to China over 20 years ago, since then we have blazed trails into this ever-developing country. We were the first western tour operator to venture to Everest Base Camp on the Tibetan side, the first to explore Zhangjiajie – the inspiration of the movie Avatar, and in recent years we have started

to include Jiuzhaigou on many of our trips – an alpine scenic wonderland that rivals anything in the world for natural beauty. We continue to push boundaries and redefine travel to China. With this brochure we feature cultural tours to China over the New Year season, Botanical tours with the RHS and trips into Tibet and Mongolia – making specialist travel in China even more accessible and easy for everyone.

### 3. Comprehensive Trip Notes

Our comprehensive Tour Dossiers provide a straightforward description of the trip and physical activities involved on each day of your itinerary. These are essential reading before booking your tour.

We'll send you a detailed travel guide packed with helpful tips to prepare you for your holiday, a phrasebook so you can practise your language skills before you leave and a suggested packing list.

To obtain a Tour Dossier, call our experienced Travel Consultants or visit [wendywutours.co.uk](http://wendywutours.co.uk).



### 4. Award-Winning Local Expertise

All of our group tours are accompanied from beginning to end by a dedicated National Escort and in each destination we are joined by local guides with particular expertise. We regularly receive letters that sing the praises of our team over in China, their knowledge, warmth, supportive nature, passion and gentle humour is something we are genuinely very proud of. See page 10.



### 5. Hand-Picked Hotels

Over 16 years of sending people to China means we know exactly where to stay. We have superb relationships with our hotel partners in China, meaning our groups are always prioritised and well looked after. We inspect our hotels regularly to ensure that they reach our high standards of cleanliness, safety and comfort. We pick

the right hotel for the specific destination, meaning your accommodation can range from a smart business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. Wherever you are staying you will have a peaceful and comfortable night's sleep in preparation for the next day's adventures. See page 132.

### 6. Unrivalled Airline Choice

We have access to airfares from all the leading airlines, giving you the ultimate choice of flights which are convenient for where you live, offering stopovers where you want and the upgrades you require. See page 130.



### 8. Tipping Made Easy

We handle the tipping so you don't have to. We have a simple tipping system whereby all Group Tour passengers contribute to a kitty, paid to the National Escort, who then distributes it throughout the trip. Tipping is not included on any of our Private Tours or Extensions, but we will suggest appropriate amounts. See page 136.

### 7. Travel in Comfort

The transport selected as part of your tour is intended to combine convenience and comfort with an enjoyably authentic travel experience. You will benefit from our seat-and-a-half policy on our coaches, allowing you to watch incredible scenery in comfort. Our Group Tours are predominantly conducted using air-conditioned coaches, internal flights, trains and various types of boat. See page 135.



### 9. Authentic Dining

Meals included in our tours are planned to give you a genuine taste of the regions we visit. We make sure that the food on our tours is safe, fresh, features minimal spice and includes plenty of vegetables. Breakfast is a combination of local and western food, usually served buffet style at the hotel you are staying in. Lunches and dinners consist of traditional cuisine and are served at reputable local restaurants. Highlights may include a dumpling dinner in Xian, a Peking Duck dinner in Beijing, authentic Sichuan cuisine in Chengdu, and east meets west fusions in Hong Kong.



### 10. Everything's Included – No Hidden Extras

- Our tours are great value for money. Group Tours are fully inclusive of:
- ✓ Specialist advice from our experienced Travel Consultants
  - ✓ International flights & current taxes
  - ✓ All transportation
  - ✓ Accommodation and meals
  - ✓ Daily touring with entrance fees
  - ✓ Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders
  - ✓ Comprehensive Tour Dossiers and Travel Guides
  - ✓ Unparalleled local knowledge, expertise and support in China
  - ✓ Award winning National Escorts & Local Guides
  - ✓ Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

All you have to pay for locally is tipping and personal expenditure, including any optional excursions or shows you choose to add. Inclusions on our Exclusive Collection and Private Tours may vary, depending on the itinerary.



# Our Tour Guides

Your guide is often the difference between a good holiday and a truly remarkable holiday. On all of our group tours you will be escorted by a dedicated National Escort for the entire duration of your trip. Their unrivalled knowledge, passion, experience and expertise will astonish you.

## Award Winning Local Expertise

Becoming a Wendy Wu Tours National Escort is the ideal of every aspiring Tour Guide in China. Our guides are utterly committed to us and the vast majority have been with Wendy Wu Tours for many years. Whenever we are looking to recruit new guides to our staff we will always receive hundreds and sometimes thousands of applications. Selecting the correct candidate can sometimes be likened to a scaled down version of the X Factor. Quite simply this ensures that the individual tasked with the responsibility to keep you safe, happy, entertained and inspired is someone whom you should have absolute trust in.

foibles and eccentricities of the Chinese way of doing things. Our guides have influence, they know the right people and if something needs done, they'll find a way to do it. In a country as unique as China you should never underestimate the importance of this.

We own our touring operation in China, meaning the standards we set in our offices in London are seamlessly communicated and fully maintained across the organisation. We speak daily to our National Escorts in China to ensure they are aware of what we expect and have been briefed on any customer feedback.

China is an unusual place – politics, customs and cultures are quite different to what we are used to in the UK. Our National Escorts intimately understand the peculiarities,

All of our National Escorts go through rigorous and ongoing training programmes, were born and raised in China and are completely fluent in English.



The Wanderlust World Guide Awards 2013

## George Pu

"I have been working for Wendy Wu Tours for almost two years now and I am really enjoying it. It was one of my old school mates, Link, who dragged me out of my office and encouraged me to join – it was a great decision. I find that Wendy Wu Tours is very different from the other companies that I've worked for – it has a very positive company culture and radiates charms and positive energy. This is what attracted me to work here and to give 100%. I like to treat all my groups as a family – I guess that's why we all shed a tear or two when the tour comes to an end. We have lots of laughs, lots of surprises and lots of new discoveries together and each group teaches me more about what it takes to be a good tour leader. All in all, when it comes to travel in China Wendy Wu always knows what she is doing, and so do we!"



## Leo Zhang

"At Wendy Wu Tours we aim to give people unforgettable memories of their time in China, and we do our utmost to meet the wants and needs of all of our guests. I have worked for Wendy Wu Tours for four years now and I am passionate about my job. I think that the company is great especially as they, with the help the National Escorts and local guides, take such good care of their guests. I aim to use the limited time on tour to show my groups China's wonderful culture and history and to also give them a glimpse of local life. Whilst we see all the big sights, like the Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors, I also like to show off the hidden treasures that not many tourists get to see. Exploring unique China, seeing all the wonders, amazing scenery and vast history with Wendy Wu Tours is an eye-opener!"



# Responsible Travel

At Wendy Wu Tours we are aware that tourism can impact the natural, economic and social environment and we are committed to addressing these wherever possible without compromising our customers' experience.

## Giving Something Back

With Responsible Tourism in mind, for every person who travels with Wendy Wu Tours, we make a donation to a carefully selected charity based in the countries we operate. The following are some of the charities which we are proud to support.



With a mission to improve the education and welfare of disadvantaged students in China, this charity provides free English lessons to 4,000 students per week in migrant schools throughout Shanghai. [steppingstoneschina.net](http://steppingstoneschina.net)



KOTO is a not-for-profit restaurant and vocational training program based in Hanoi whose staff consists of former street children who receive training in catering and life skills. [koto.com.au](http://koto.com.au)



## What we are doing

Our brochure contains material sourced from sustainably managed forests, certified in accordance with the PEFC (The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes).



## Supporting local business

We believe that when visiting a place, it is important to not only feel, see, learn and experience, but to also give something back. We do this partly by supporting charities in Asia; and also by supporting local enterprise.

When travelling with us through China, you'll notice that we take you to locally owned restaurants and shops. It's very important to us to be able to support the businesses that are the livelihood of so many Chinese people. Visits to these places are a great opportunity for you to taste authentic local food, and to learn about and see traditional crafts, and take a small piece of China home with you.

## Quality & Security

Wendy Wu Tours is a Member of ABTA. ABTA and its members

help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist when things don't go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct. We are ABTA bonded for our holidays that don't include a flight. For more information on ABTA, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration scheme available to you if you have a complaint, contact ABTA at [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com).



All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme.

If you are booking a flight-inclusive holiday, when you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to [www.atol.org.uk](http://www.atol.org.uk)



# Travellers' Feedback

We love to hear from our customers. Your comments and feedback help to maintain and improve our high standards. We also love to hear your travel stories and discover your holiday highlights.

## What our customers think of us

### Superior in all aspects

"I have travelled with a few other companies and it is true to say that in my experience Wendy Wu Tours are not only superior in all aspects but they go 'that extra mile'. I have truly had the best adventures with the company and hope to do many more. A Wendy Wu tour brings together a mix of people all eager to widen their horizons. I have made some great friends and travelling companions this way.

This tour has all anyone could wish for. The guides who work tirelessly to ensure your total satisfaction plus an itinerary packed full of sights, sounds and experiences."

Pauline Pink (who has recently booked her 6th trip with us!)  
Himalayan Kingdoms, Nov 2013

**98%** overall tour satisfaction  
(rated as good or excellent)

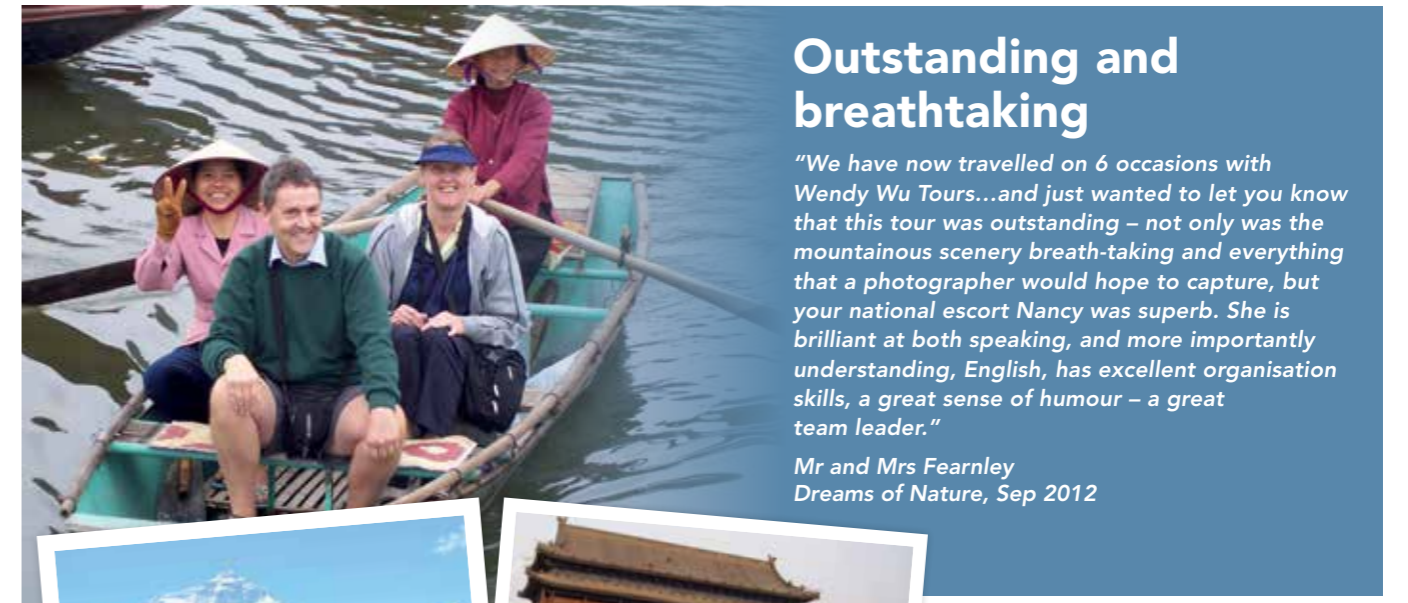
**99%** would recommend us  
to their friends

Based on post tour customer surveys in 2014.

### Nothing seemed too much trouble

"We enjoyed the experience of being in China for the New Year very much. The boat and meal made it very special. We learned so much about Chinese life and culture from the guides, and were very impressed by their knowledge and enthusiasm – nothing seemed too much trouble."

**Mrs Lodge**  
Chinese New Year, Feb 2014



### Outstanding and breathtaking

"We have now travelled on 6 occasions with Wendy Wu Tours...and just wanted to let you know that this tour was outstanding – not only was the mountainous scenery breath-taking and everything that a photographer would hope to capture, but your national escort Nancy was superb. She is brilliant at both speaking, and more importantly understanding, English, has excellent organisation skills, a great sense of humour – a great team leader."

**Mr and Mrs Fearnley**  
Dreams of Nature, Sep 2012



### Ten stars plus!

"Absolutely fabulous from start to finish, the adventure of my life – 1st class organisation of all aspects of the tour. Lillie, our national guide was wonderful – she called us her family and she was always there for us morning, noon and night. Ten stars plus!"

**Mrs Bull**  
Wonders of China, March 2014

### Excellent national guide

"Particularly enjoyed the rural areas in southern China not visited by many groups. Superb mix of people from Australia, US and UK. Excellent national guide who was always there but never intrusive."

**Mrs Davies**  
Grand Tour of China, May 2014

### A fabulous time

"Just wanted to say thank you so much for arranging our wonderful trip to China, we had such a fabulous time and it was worth every penny. My wife's face seeing the Pandas in Chengdu was great and I just loved the Great Wall. A fantastic experience and would recommend to anyone."

**Mr and Mrs Jolliffe, booked with Thomson Travel**  
In Pursuit of Pandas, Jan 2014

### Exceeded our expectations

"We have recently returned from your Wonders of China holiday and would like to say it lived up to and exceeded our expectations. Everything ran very smoothly, in large part thanks to our national guide, Bruce – he is one of your national treasures! Also the local guides were very knowledgeable and professional and we will personally be recommending the Wendy Wu Company to friends in the future."

**Mr and Mrs Fell, booked with Bath Travel**  
Wonders of China, May 2014

### Iconic sites and natural beauty

"We have recently returned from your China Encounters tour and have had a wonderful holiday. The organisation from our pre-tour information and documentation to our last minutes where David, our national escort, waved us through to our homeward flight was faultless. The itinerary could not have been better. We saw all the iconic sites and cities yet were able to see the rural village life and China's natural beauty as we moved between locations."

**Mr and Mrs Joyner**  
China Encounters, Apr 2014

### A fantastic experience

"Our holiday in China was a fantastic experience. Well organised with an excellent tour guide (Steven) who worked so hard to make sure our holiday was stress-free. He knew so much history and made every day enthralling."

**Mrs Wells, booked with Co-Op Travel**  
Cities of the Orient, Apr 2014

## feefo

The Global Feedback Engine

We are keen to receive as much feedback as we can. We have partnered with independent online review site, Feefo, to give you the chance to tell us what you think. You will receive an email from feefo after booking and once again after you have travelled so you can rate our service and tour experience.

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# Classic Tours

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Our Classic Tours encompass the most renowned and iconic sights of this spectacular land – from the Great Wall to the Terracotta Warriors and beyond.

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**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: TOM**

*This tour provides the chance to discover real Chinese culture, as well as the opportunity to meet the pandas!*



▲ PANDA CONSERVATION CENTRE, CHENGDU

# In Pursuit of Pandas

**Journey from the imperial treasures of Beijing through atmospheric Xian with its enigmatic legions of Terracotta Warriors to reach the charming city of Chengdu, where you will meet its most famous residents – the captivating Giant Pandas**

- **The Great Wall**
- **Qin Shi Huang's Terracotta Army**
- **Giant Pandas in Chengdu**
- **Grand Buddha of Leshan**

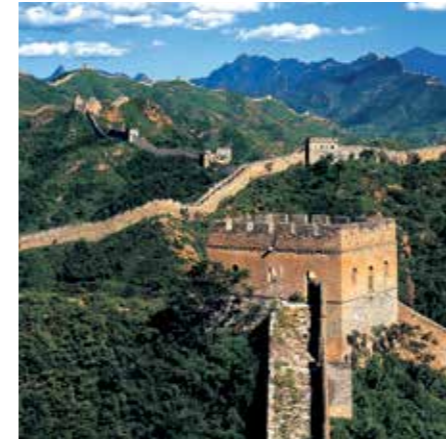
■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**  
Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Imperial Beijing**  
We begin in Beijing's symbolic heart with a stroll across Tiananmen Square, flanked by imposing government buildings and the mausoleum of Chairman Mao. At the head of the square the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City is a monument to dynasties past. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex of a thousand rooms and many imperial treasures. Later soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. This evening sit down to a traditional dinner of Peking Duck.

■ **Day 4: The Great Wall**  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Stretching thousands of miles from the Yellow Sea to the Gobi Desert, over all sorts of dramatic landscapes, it is one of the world's most impressive feats of engineering. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the wall itself and the magnificent scenery that it crosses. Savour a relaxed afternoon in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional gardens and admire exquisite architecture. Jade is revered throughout China, it is said to bring fortune and prosperity to those who wear it. You will have an opportunity to visit a Jade museum, where you will be able to buy a small handcrafted piece. A Chinese acrobatic show rounds off the day.

■ **Day 5: Fly to Xian**  
Fly to Xian. An illustrious and age-old city, Xian is one of the four great ancient capitals of China. It is also the capital of Shaanxi province, and the starting point of the fabled Silk Road with a history spanning 3,100 years. Take a leisurely stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town to get your bearings, before a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ **Day 6: Terracotta Warriors**  
After their fortuitous discovery by local farmers in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life-like warriors who stand in their original formations at the exact location they were excavated. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and buy a souvenir warrior to take home. Fly to Chengdu.



▲ GREAT WALL OF CHINA



▲ TEMPLE OF HEAVEN, BEIJING

■ **Day 7: Grand Buddha of Leshan**  
Travel to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, at 71 metres, this is the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist monument. A short boat trip on the river will give even better views of the statue. Returning to Chengdu, there will be a stop at the riverside village of Huanglongxi, where cobbled streets and rickety wooden buildings retain the charms of the Qing Dynasty. Sample a delicious Sichuan meal this evening.

■ **Day 8: Giant Pandas**  
A visit to Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre allows you to see and learn about China's celebrated bears. See them up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat as they chomp through piles of bamboo. A look around the informative museum gives an overview of the Reserve's breeding programme. Later, stroll down Jinli Street, a pedestrianised road in the old city which is lined with antique shops, bars and cafes.

■ **Day 9: Fly Chengdu to UK**  
Return flight to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



**Stopover in Hong Kong**  
3 nights from £290pp  
A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious.  
See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.

**In Pursuit of Pandas Christmas Special**  
11 days from £2,590pp  
Enjoy a Christmas with a difference! Two days longer than the usual itinerary (with extra nights in Xian and Chengdu) there is plenty of time to relax and get into the festive spirit whilst walking the Great Wall on Christmas Day and enjoying a New Year's Eve panda experience.  
See page 85.

**CLASSIC TOUR**

- 9 Days from
- Per person **£1,790**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Comfortable

**2015 DEPART FRI - RETURN SAT**

17 Jan - 25 Jan*	£1,790	24 Jul - 01 Aug	£2,590
21 Feb - 01 Mar*	£1,890	14 Aug - 22 Aug	£2,590
04 Apr - 12 Apr*	£2,290	04 Sep - 12 Sep	£2,390
18 Apr - 26 Apr*	£2,290	11 Sep - 19 Sep	£2,390
09 May - 17 May*	£2,290	25 Sep - 03 Oct	£2,390
16 May - 24 May*	£2,290	09 Oct - 17 Oct	£2,390
23 May - 31 May*	£2,290	23 Oct - 31 Oct	£2,190
30 May - 07 Jun*	£2,290	20 Nov - 28 Nov	£1,790

**2016 DEPART FRI - RETURN SAT**

15 Jan - 23 Jan	£1,890	22 Jul - 30 Jul	£2,690
26 Feb - 05 Mar	£1,990	12 Aug - 20 Aug	£2,690
01 Apr - 09 Apr	£2,390	02 Sep - 10 Sep	£2,490
15 Apr - 23 Apr	£2,390	09 Sep - 17 Sep	£2,490
06 May - 14 May	£2,390	23 Sep - 01 Oct	£2,490
13 May - 21 May	£2,390	07 Oct - 15 Oct	£2,490
20 May - 28 May	£2,390	21 Oct - 29 Oct	£2,290
27 May - 04 Jun	£2,390	18 Nov - 26 Nov	£1,890

\* Days of the week different to those stated

- Flight and supplement information**
- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £1,250 (Beijing - Chengdu)
  - Single room from £260
  - Tipping paid locally US\$45

- Price includes:**
- International flights and current taxes
  - Domestic transportation
  - Accommodation
  - All meals
  - Touring with guides and entrance fees
  - Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**  
From **£2,490pp**

- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something a little more personal?
  - Want the same levels of comfort, expertise and professional guiding but with more flexibility and your choice of hotel?
- Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.





**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: LINK**

This might be only a brief stay in China, but delve deep into its past, present and future.



▲ SHANGHAI

# A China Experience

The quintessential experience, this introductory tour offers a glimpse of China's glorious past, fascinating present and bright future with visits to the exceptional and contrasting cities of Xian, Beijing and Shanghai

- **Cosmopolitan Shanghai**
- **Zhujiajiao Canal Town**
- **Qin Shi Huang's Terracotta Army**
- **The Great Wall**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**  
Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East'. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Zhujiajiao water town**  
Visit Zhujiajiao, one of Shanghai's sleepy water towns, built on an old canal system once used to transport goods all over imperial China. The town's narrow alleyways exude old-world charm, whilst the waterways are lined with ancient buildings and crossed by stone bridges. Return to Shanghai and enjoy the fine arts and antiquities of the Shanghai Museum. Dinner is traditional Shanghainese cuisine.

■ **Day 4: Explore Shanghai**  
Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Today's explorations include the traditional Yu Gardens and the atmospheric alleys of the old town. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund before enjoying the 1920s architectural styling of the Xintiandi area. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise.



■ **Day 5: Fly to Xian**  
Fly to Xian, the ancient former capital. Tonight feast on traditional Shui Jiao dumplings before a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ **Day 6: Terracotta Warriors**  
After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life-sized warriors. Later stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town.

■ **Day 7: Fly to Beijing**  
A relaxed morning includes a visit to the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda and time to walk through the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter, which are lined with Islamic food stalls. Later, fly to Beijing, China's capital city.



▲ ZHUJIAJIAO



▲ XIAN CITY WALLS

■ **Day 8: Imperial Beijing**  
Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony you will find a complex full of imperial riches. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape, before an evening watching a Chinese acrobatic show.

■ **Day 9: Great Wall of China**  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the sheer magnificence of the wall itself and the dramatic scenery that it crosses. Jade has been long cherished by the Chinese and at the Jade Museum you can understand and appreciate the delicate process of carving the stone and buy a piece if you wish. Savour an afternoon in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you see the traditional Chinese gardens and exquisite architecture. Today's sightseeing is the perfect way to build up your appetite for Beijing's best known delicacy – Peking Duck.

■ **Day 10: Fly Beijing to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



**Stopover in Hong Kong  
3 nights from £290pp**

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious.

See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.

**Enjoy as a  
Private Tour  
From  
£2,490pp**

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something a little more personal?
- Want the same levels of comfort, expertise and professional guiding but with more flexibility and your choice of hotel?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.

**CLASSIC TOUR**

- 10 Days from
- Per person **£1,790**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Comfortable

**2015 DEPART SAT - RETURN MON**

17 Jan - 26 Jan	£1,790	18 Jul - 27 Jul	£2,590
14 Feb - 23 Feb	£1,890	01 Aug - 10 Aug	£2,590
28 Feb - 09 Mar	£1,990	08 Aug - 17 Aug	£2,590
14 Mar - 23 Mar	£2,190	15 Aug - 24 Aug	£2,490
21 Mar - 30 Mar	£2,190	29 Aug - 07 Sep	£2,390
28 Mar - 06 Apr	£2,290	01 Sep - 10 Sep*	£2,390
04 Apr - 13 Apr	£2,290	05 Sep - 14 Sep	£2,390
11 Apr - 20 Apr	£2,290	08 Sep - 17 Sep*	£2,390
18 Apr - 27 Apr	£2,290	12 Sep - 21 Sep	£2,390
25 Apr - 04 May	£2,290	15 Sep - 24 Sep*	£2,390
04 May - 13 May*	£2,290	19 Sep - 28 Sep	£2,390
09 May - 18 May	£2,290	26 Sep - 05 Oct	£2,390
18 May - 27 May*	£2,290	10 Oct - 19 Oct	£2,390
23 May - 01 Jun	£2,290	17 Oct - 26 Oct	£2,290
30 May - 08 Jun	£2,290	24 Oct - 02 Nov	£2,190
06 Jun - 15 Jun	£2,190	14 Nov - 23 Nov	£1,890
27 Jun - 06 Jul	£2,190	21 Nov - 30 Nov	£1,790

**2016 DEPART SAT - RETURN MON**

23 Jan - 01 Feb	£1,890	16 Jul - 25 Jul	£2,690
20 Feb - 29 Feb	£1,990	30 Jul - 08 Aug	£2,690
05 Mar - 14 Mar	£2,190	06 Aug - 15 Aug	£2,690
19 Mar - 28 Mar	£2,390	13 Aug - 22 Aug	£2,590
26 Mar - 04 Apr	£2,390	27 Aug - 05 Sep	£2,490
02 Apr - 11 Apr	£2,390	03 Sep - 12 Sep	£2,490
09 Apr - 18 Apr	£2,390	06 Sep - 15 Sep*	£2,490
16 Apr - 25 Apr	£2,390	10 Sep - 19 Sep	£2,490
23 Apr - 02 May	£2,390	13 Sep - 22 Sep*	£2,490
03 May - 12 May*	£2,390	17 Sep - 26 Sep	£2,490
07 May - 16 May	£2,390	24 Sep - 03 Oct	£2,490
17 May - 26 May*	£2,390	08 Oct - 17 Oct	£2,490
21 May - 30 May	£2,390	15 Oct - 24 Oct	£2,390
28 May - 06 Jun	£2,390	22 Oct - 31 Oct	£2,290
04 Jun - 13 Jun	£2,290	19 Nov - 28 Nov	£1,990
25 Jun - 04 Jul	£2,290	26 Nov - 05 Dec	£1,890

\* Days of the week different to those stated

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £1,260 (Shanghai - Beijing)
  - Single room from £260
  - Tipping paid locally US\$55

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
SAM**

Experience both China's natural beauty and fast-paced modernisation along with its long and turbulent history.



▲ YANGSHUO

# Glories of China

Combining the contrasting urban splendour of Shanghai, Beijing and Xian with the majestic sights of the Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors and extraordinary landscapes of the Li River, this tour showcases China's most glorious highlights

- **Cosmopolitan Shanghai**
- **Li River Cruise**
- **Qin Shi Huang's Terracotta Army**
- **The Great Wall of China**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**

Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East'. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Days 3-4: Explore Shanghai**

Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Explore the antiquities of the Shanghai Museum before admiring the magnificent architecture with a stroll along the Bund. Round off the day with a delicious meal of Shanghai cuisine. The next day visit the peaceful Yu Gardens and wander the bustling streets of the old town before exploring the modern Pudong area and viewing the 1920s architectural styling of Xintiandi. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise.

■ **Day 5: Fly to Guilin**

Fly to the scenic city of Guilin. Visit the Seven Star Park which is not only home to two Giant Pandas but also has beautiful scenery to stroll through. The South China Pearl Museum covers the fascinating 1700 year history of pearling in the South China Sea with displays and demonstrations. There are also beautiful pieces available to buy.

■ **Day 6: Li River Cruise**

Take a relaxed cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged karst peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalo and local fishermen.

■ **Day 7: Yangshuo**

Yangshuo sits in an exquisite rural location, surrounded by landscapes of jewel-green paddy fields and dramatic limestone karsts. Spend the morning exploring the countryside before having an afternoon at leisure. There are many activities available including cycling, rafting and walking though you may prefer to relax in the town. In the evening see the famous cormorant fishermen.

■ **Day 8: Fly to Xian**

Fly to ancient Xian. Tonight feast on traditional Shui Jiao dumplings before a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ **Day 9: Terracotta Warriors**

After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life sized warriors. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and buy a souvenir warrior to take home. Later stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town.

■ **Day 10: Explore Xian, fly to Beijing**

A fascinating morning includes the treasures of the Shaanxi Museum and a visit to the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda. Take some time to walk through the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter which are lined with Islamic food stalls. Later, fly to Beijing.



▲ FISHERMAN, YANGSHUO



▲ FORBIDDEN CITY, BEIJING

■ **Day 11: Forbidden City**

Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex full of imperial riches. Round off the day with an evening Chinese acrobatic show.

■ **Day 12: Great Wall of China**

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the sheer magnificence of the wall itself and the dramatic scenery that it crosses. In the afternoon savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander amongst traditional Chinese gardens and view the exquisite architecture. Later on you'll visit the Jade Museum.

■ **Day 13: Temple of Heaven**

Enjoy a fascinating rickshaw ride through the warren-like hutongs and soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. This evening, relish Beijing's best known delicacy – Peking Duck.

■ **Day 14: Fly Beijing to UK**

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



**Stopover in Dubai**  
3 nights from £220pp

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination full of futuristic architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig a little deeper and you'll find a rich culture centred on the labyrinthine old city.  
See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.



**CLASSIC TOUR**

14 Days from

Per person **£2,190**

✓ Fully inclusive from UK

➤ Comfortable

**2015 DEPART SAT - RETURN FRI**

14 Feb - 27 Feb	£2,190	27 Jun - 10 Jul	£2,590
21 Feb - 06 Mar	£2,290	25 Jul - 07 Aug	£2,990
07 Mar - 20 Mar	£2,490	15 Aug - 28 Aug	£2,890
21 Mar - 03 Apr	£2,590	05 Sep - 18 Sep	£2,790
28 Mar - 10 Apr	£2,690	12 Sep - 25 Sep	£2,790
04 Apr - 17 Apr	£2,690	19 Sep - 02 Oct	£2,790
11 Apr - 24 Apr	£2,690	26 Sep - 09 Oct	£2,790
16 Apr - 29 Apr*	£2,690	10 Oct - 23 Oct	£2,790
05 May - 18 May*	£2,690	17 Oct - 30 Oct	£2,690
09 May - 22 May	£2,690	31 Oct - 13 Nov	£2,490
23 May - 05 Jun	£2,690	14 Nov - 27 Nov	£2,290
06 Jun - 19 Jun	£2,590	21 Nov - 04 Dec	£2,190

**2016 DEPART SAT - RETURN FRI**

13 Feb - 26 Feb	£2,290	25 Jun - 08 Jul	£2,690
27 Feb - 11 Mar	£2,390	23 Jul - 05 Aug	£3,090
12 Mar - 25 Mar	£2,690	13 Aug - 26 Aug	£2,990
19 Mar - 01 Apr	£2,790	03 Sep - 16 Sep	£2,890
26 Mar - 08 Apr	£2,790	10 Sep - 23 Sep	£2,890
02 Apr - 15 Apr	£2,790	17 Sep - 30 Sep	£2,890
09 Apr - 22 April	£2,790	24 Sep - 07 Oct	£2,890
16 Apr - 29 April	£2,790	01 Oct - 14 Oct	£2,890
23 Apr - 06 May	£2,790	08 Oct - 21 Oct	£2,890
30 Apr - 13 May	£2,790	15 Oct - 28 Oct	£2,790
07 May - 20 May	£2,790	29 Oct - 11 Nov	£2,590
21 May - 03 Jun	£2,790	19 Nov - 02 Dec	£2,390
04 Jun - 17 Jun	£2,690	26 Nov - 09 Dec	£2,290

\* Days of the week different to those stated

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £1,660 (Shanghai - Beijing)
- Single room from £360
- Tipping paid locally US\$63

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Enjoy as a Private Tour  
From **£2,790pp**



- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something a little more personal?
- Want the same levels of comfort, expertise and professional guiding but with more flexibility and your choice of hotel?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: JASON**

The highlight of this tour is the spectacular journey on the Yangtze but it also goes beyond that. You'll also get to see the adorable pandas!



▲ YANGTZE RIVER

# Majestic Yangtze

Savour the natural grandeur of the Three Gorges on a relaxing Yangtze River Cruise – just one part of a wonderful tour that also includes China's enthralling cities of Shanghai, Xian, Beijing, and of course the unforgettable Giant Pandas of Chengdu

- Three Gorges Cruise
- Giant Pandas in Chengdu
- Qin Shi Huang's Terracotta Army
- The Great Wall

**Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**

Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East'. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

**Day 3: Explore Shanghai**

Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Gardens, the atmospheric alleys of the old town, and the fine arts and antiquities of the Shanghai Museum. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund. Follow the age-old silk production process at the Silk Museum, from the cultivation of silkworms up to creating the final piece. There are also many gorgeous, handmade items for sale. This evening view the city from the

Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise. The skyscrapers and glimmering lights are a sight to behold, Shanghai is unlike any other city in the world. Later on you will sample some traditional cuisine.

**Day 4: Fly to Yichang**

Take the morning to see the sights of the ultramodern Pudong area of the city with its sci-fi skyscrapers before flying to Yichang to board the Yangtze River Cruise vessel.

**Days 5-7: Yangtze River Cruise**

A man-made marvel, the Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. But as we cruise upstream nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. Over the next three days prepare for one breath-taking panorama after another. Take a side trip to the attractive Goddess or Shennong Stream and enjoy shore excursions to the Ghost City of Fengdu or Shibaozhai.

**Day 8: Drive to Chengdu**

Disembarking the cruise vessel, explore old Ciqikou, a district known for its porcelain production during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Ciqikou's narrow streets are perfect for a morning stroll to admire the historical, traditional architecture. Transfer to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, where this evening there will be a delicious Sichuan meal to enjoy.

**Day 9: Pandas**

A visit to Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre allows you to see and learn about China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. A look around the informative museum gives an overview of the reserve's breeding programme. We'll then fly to the former imperial capital of Xian. This evening a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing awaits.



▲ GREAT WALL OF CHINA



▲ SHANGHAI

**Day 10: Terracotta Warriors**

After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life sized warriors. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and buy a souvenir warrior to take home. Later stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town.

**Day 11: Explore Xian, fly to Beijing**

A fascinating morning includes a visit to the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda and the treasures of the Shaanxi Museum. Take time to walk through the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter which are lined with Islamic food stalls. Later, fly to Beijing, China's capital city.

**Day 12: Imperial Beijing**

Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex full of imperial riches. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape.

**Day 13: Great Wall**

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the sheer magnificence of the wall itself and the dramatic scenery that it crosses. In the afternoon savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional Chinese gardens and view the exquisite architecture, before a Chinese acrobatic show. This evening, savour Beijing's best known delicacy – Peking Duck.

**Day 14: Fly Beijing to UK**

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



**Stopover in Hong Kong  
3 nights from £290pp**

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious.

See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.

**CLASSIC TOUR**

14 Days from

Per person **£2,490**

Fully inclusive from UK

Comfortable

**2015 DEPART MON - RETURN SUN**

08 Mar - 21 Mar*	£2,690	20 Jul - 02 Aug	£3,190
16 Mar - 29 Mar	£2,790	03 Aug - 16 Aug	£3,190
23 Mar - 05 Apr	£2,890	10 Aug - 23 Aug	£3,190
30 Mar - 12 Apr	£2,890	17 Aug - 30 Aug	£3,090
06 Apr - 19 Apr	£2,890	24 Aug - 06 Sep	£2,990
09 Apr - 22 Apr*	£2,890	31 Aug - 13 Sep	£2,990
13 Apr - 26 Apr	£2,890	02 Sep - 15 Sep*	£2,990
17 Apr - 30 Apr*	£2,890	07 Sep - 20 Sep	£2,990
27 Apr - 10 May	£2,890	09 Sep - 22 Sep*	£2,990
04 May - 17 May	£2,890	14 Sep - 27 Sep	£2,990
06 May - 19 May*	£2,890	16 Sep - 29 Sep*	£2,990
11 May - 24 May	£2,890	28 Sep - 11 Oct	£2,990
18 May - 31 May	£2,890	05 Oct - 18 Oct	£2,990
25 May - 07 Jun	£2,890	12 Oct - 25 Oct	£2,990
01 Jun - 14 Jun	£2,790	19 Oct - 01 Nov	£2,890
08 Jun - 21 Jun	£2,790	26 Oct - 08 Nov	£2,690
15 Jun - 28 Jun	£2,790	02 Nov - 15 Nov	£2,490

**2016 DEPART MON - RETURN SUN**

06 Mar - 19 Mar*	£2,890	01 Aug - 14 Aug	£3,390
14 Mar - 27 Mar	£2,990	08 Aug - 21 Aug	£3,390
21 Mar - 03 Apr	£3,090	15 Aug - 28 Aug	£3,290
28 Mar - 10 Apr	£3,090	22 Aug - 04 Sep	£3,190
04 Apr - 17 Apr	£3,090	29 Aug - 11 Sep	£3,190
06 Apr - 19 Apr*	£3,090	31 Aug - 13 Sep*	£3,190
11 Apr - 24 Apr	£3,090	05 Sep - 18 Sep	£3,190
18 Apr - 01 May	£3,090	07 Sep - 20 Sep*	£3,190
25 Apr - 08 May	£3,090	12 Sep - 25 Sep	£3,190
02 May - 15 May	£3,090	14 Sep - 27 Sep*	£3,190
04 May - 17 May*	£3,090	19 Sep - 02 Oct	£3,190
09 May - 22 May	£3,090	26 Sep - 09 Oct	£3,190
16 May - 29 May	£3,090	03 Oct - 16 Oct	£3,190
23 May - 05 Jun	£3,090	10 Oct - 23 Oct	£3,190
30 May - 12 Jun	£3,090	17 Oct - 30 Oct	£3,090
06 Jun - 19 Jun	£2,990	24 Oct - 06 Nov	£2,890
13 Jun - 26 Jun	£2,990	31 Oct - 13 Nov	£2,690
18 Jul - 31 Jul	£3,390		

\* Days of the week different to those stated

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £1,960 (Shanghai - Beijing)
  - Single room from £460
  - Tipping paid locally US\$88

**Price includes:**

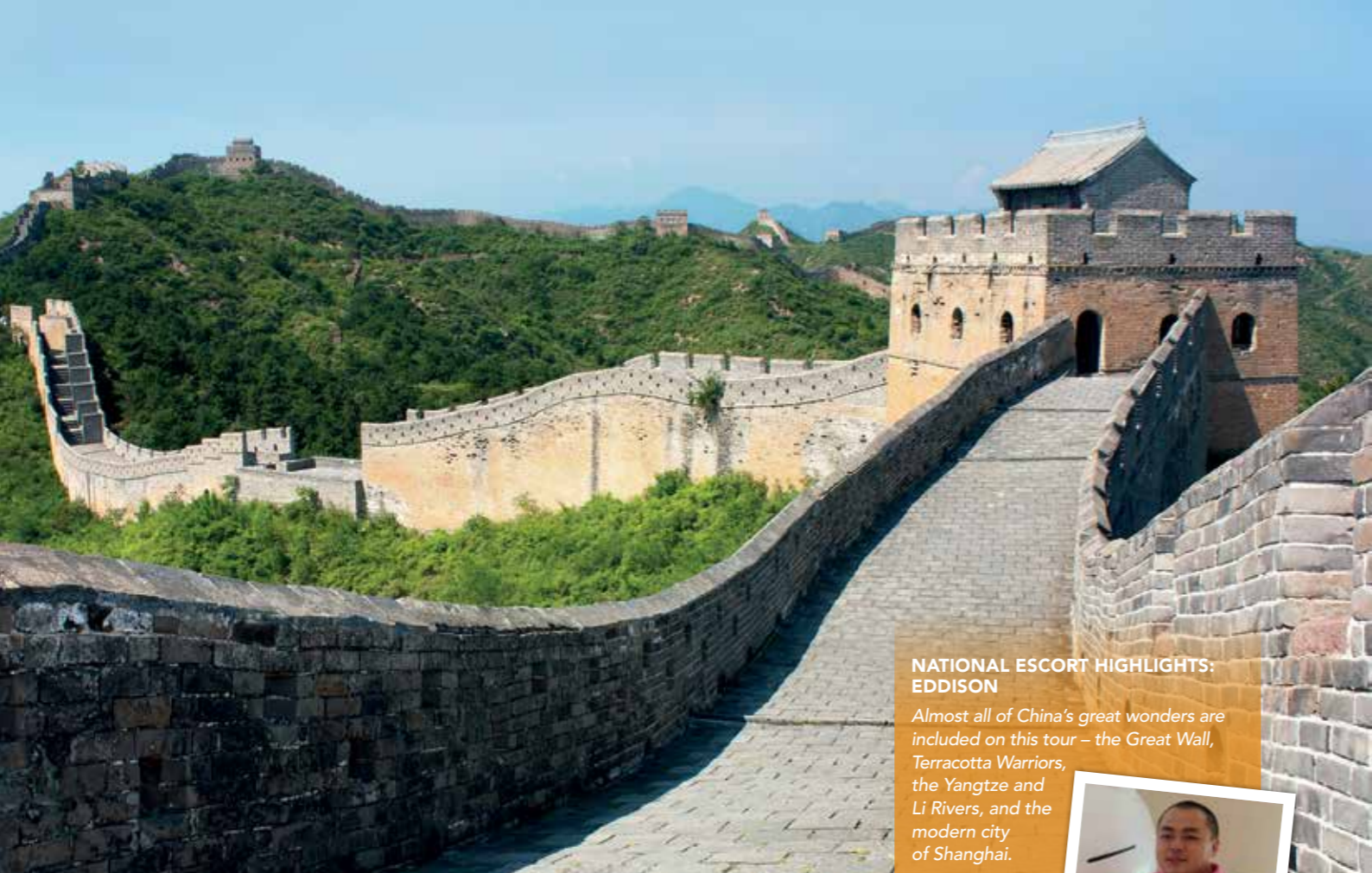
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Enjoy as a Private Tour  
From **£2,790pp**



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- Want the same levels of comfort, expertise and professional guiding but with more flexibility and your choice of hotel?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: EDDISON**

Almost all of China's great wonders are included on this tour – the Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors, the Yangtze and Li Rivers, and the modern city of Shanghai.



▲ GREAT WALL OF CHINA

# Wonders of China

China is a land of many wonders – both ancient and modern, natural and man-made. This hugely popular tour is a comprehensive journey through China's most iconic sights from the magnificent Great Wall to the mighty Yangtze River

- The Great Wall of China
- The Li and Yangtze Rivers
- Terracotta Warriors
- Vibrant Shanghai

■ Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ Day 3: Imperial Beijing

Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex full of imperial riches. Enjoy a rickshaw ride through the warren-like hutongs before soaking up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. This evening sit down to a traditional dinner of Peking Duck.

■ Day 4: Great Wall

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the wall itself and the dramatic scenery that it crosses. Jade has been long cherished by the Chinese – at the Jade Museum you can understand and appreciate the delicate process of carving the stone and buy a piece if you wish. Savour an afternoon in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you see the traditional Chinese gardens and exquisite architecture. A Chinese acrobatic show rounds off the day.

■ Day 5: Fly to Xian

Fly to Xian. This evening enjoy a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ Day 6: Terracotta Warriors

After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life sized warriors. Stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town.

■ Day 7: Fly to Wuhan

Fly to Wuhan and transfer to Yichang to board the Yangtze River Cruise vessel.

■ Days 8-10: Yangtze River Cruise

A man-made marvel, the Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. But as we cruise upstream nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. Over the next three days prepare for one breathtaking panorama after another. Take a side trip to the attractive Goddess or Shennong Stream and enjoy shore excursions to the Ghost City of Fengdu or Shibaozhai.

■ Day 11: Fly to Guilin

Disembarking from the cruise vessel, visit the Panda House at Chongqing Zoo. Fly to Guilin and visit the Reed Flute Cave.

■ Day 12: Li River Cruise

Take a relaxed cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged karst peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalo and local fishermen.



▲ OLD AND NEW SHANGHAI



▲ LIMESTONE KARSTS, YANGSHUO

■ Day 13: Yangshuo

Yangshuo sits in an exquisite rural location, surrounded by landscapes of jewel-green paddy fields and dramatic limestone karsts. Spend the morning exploring the country side before having an afternoon at leisure. There are many activities available including cycling, rafting and walking though you may prefer to relax in the town. In the evening see the famous cormorant fishermen.

■ Day 14: Fly to Shanghai

Fly to the exuberant city of Shanghai. Spend the afternoon admiring the fine arts and antiquities of the Shanghai Museum and strolling around People's Square. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise.

■ Day 15: Discover Shanghai

Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Gardens; and the atmospheric alleys of the old town. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund before enjoying the 1920s architectural styling of the Xintiandi area. This evening enjoy some tasty, traditional Shanghai cuisine.

■ Day 16: Fly Shanghai to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



**Stopover in the Emirates**  
4 nights from £370pp

See the sights of the ultimate in ultra-modern urban destinations, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, combined with the cultural treasures of Sharjah where museums, art galleries and lively souqs abound.

See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.

Enjoy as a Private Tour  
From £3,290pp

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something a little more personal?
- Want the same levels of comfort, expertise and professional guiding but with more flexibility and your choice of hotel?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.

CLASSIC TOUR

- 16 Days from
- Per person £2,690
- Fully inclusive from UK
- Comfortable

2015 DEPART SUN - RETURN MON

08 Mar - 23 Mar	£2,890	12 Jul - 27 Jul	£3,190
15 Mar - 30 Mar	£2,990	19 Jul - 03 Aug	£3,390
22 Mar - 06 Apr	£3,090	26 Jul - 10 Aug	£3,390
29 Mar - 13 Apr	£3,090	02 Aug - 17 Aug	£3,390
05 Apr - 20 Apr	£3,090	09 Aug - 24 Aug	£3,390
12 Apr - 27 Apr	£3,090	16 Aug - 31 Aug	£3,290
16 Apr - 01 May*	£3,090	23 Aug - 07 Sep	£3,190
19 Apr - 04 May	£3,090	30 Aug - 14 Sep	£3,190
23 Apr - 08 May*	£3,090	03 Sep - 18 Sep*	£3,190
26 Apr - 11 May	£3,090	06 Sep - 21 Sep	£3,190
03 May - 18 May	£3,090	10 Sep - 25 Sep*	£3,190
07 May - 22 May*	£3,090	13 Sep - 28 Sep	£3,190
10 May - 25 May	£3,090	17 Sep - 02 Oct*	£3,190
14 May - 29 May*	£3,090	20 Sep - 05 Oct*	£3,190
17 May - 01 Jun	£3,090	24 Sep - 09 Oct*	£3,190
21 May - 05 Jun*	£3,090	04 Oct - 19 Oct	£3,190
24 May - 08 Jun	£3,090	08 Oct - 23 Oct*	£3,190
31 May - 15 Jun	£2,990	11 Oct - 26 Oct	£3,190
07 Jun - 22 Jun	£2,990	18 Oct - 02 Nov	£3,090
14 Jun - 29 Jun	£2,990	25 Oct - 09 Nov	£2,990
21 Jun - 06 Jul	£2,990	01 Nov - 16 Nov	£2,890
28 Jun - 13 Jul	£2,990	08 Nov - 23 Nov	£2,690
05 Jul - 20 Jul	£2,990		

2016 DEPART SUN - RETURN MON

05 Mar - 20 Mar*	£2,990	10 Jul - 25 Jul	£3,390
13 Mar - 28 Mar	£3,190	17 Jul - 01 Aug	£3,590
20 Mar - 04 Apr	£3,290	24 Jul - 08 Aug	£3,590
27 Mar - 11 Apr	£3,290	31 Jul - 15 Aug	£3,590
03 Apr - 18 Apr	£3,290	07 Aug - 22 Aug	£3,590
10 Apr - 25 Apr	£3,290	14 Aug - 29 Aug	£3,490
14 Apr - 29 Apr*	£3,290	21 Aug - 05 Sep	£3,390
17 Apr - 02 May	£3,290	28 Aug - 12 Sep	£3,390
21 Apr - 06 May*	£3,290	01 Sep - 16 Sep*	£3,390
24 Apr - 09 May	£3,290	04 Sep - 19 Sep	£3,390
05 May - 20 May*	£3,290	08 Sep - 23 Sep*	£3,390
08 May - 23 May	£3,290	11 Sep - 26 Sep	£3,390
12 May - 27 May*	£3,290	15 Sep - 30 Sep*	£3,390
15 May - 30 May	£3,290	18 Sep - 03 Oct	£3,390
19 May - 03 Jun*	£3,290	22 Sep - 07 Oct*	£3,390
22 May - 06 Jun	£3,290	25 Sep - 10 Oct	£3,390
29 May - 13 Jun	£3,290	06 Oct - 21 Oct*	£3,390
05 Jun - 20 Jun	£3,190	09 Oct - 24 Oct	£3,390
12 Jun - 27 Jun	£3,190	16 Oct - 31 Oct	£3,290
19 Jun - 04 Jul	£3,190	23 Oct - 07 Nov	£3,190
26 Jun - 11 Jul	£3,190	30 Oct - 14 Nov	£3,090
03 Jul - 18 Jul	£3,190	06 Nov - 21 Nov	£2,890

\* Days of the week different to those stated

Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £2,160 (Beijing - Shanghai)
  - Single room from £490
  - Tipping paid locally US\$95

Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders



▲ POTALA PALACE, LHASA

**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: ERIN**

This is an amazing trip to the Himalayas where you can explore the mysterious land of Tibet and experience its unique culture.



# China & Tibet Discovery

Journey to the roof of the world to uncover the mysteries of Tibet in the incredible city of Lhasa whilst enjoying the very best cultural, historical and natural treasures that China has to offer – from the Great Wall and Terracotta Army to the Yangtze River

- **Mystical Tibet**
- **Yangtze River Cruise**
- **Giant Pandas in Chengdu**
- **Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**  
Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Imperial Beijing**  
Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex full of imperial riches. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. Sit down to a traditional dinner of Peking Duck. A Chinese acrobatic show rounds off the day.

■ **Day 4: Great Wall**  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the wall itself and the dramatic scenery that it crosses. Savour an afternoon in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional Chinese gardens and see the exquisite architecture.

■ **Day 5: Fly to Xian**  
Fly to Xian, the ancient former capital. Visit the Shaanxi Museum and enjoy a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings before a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ **Day 6: Terracotta Warriors**  
After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life sized warriors and visit the workshop where the warriors are intricately recreated. Stroll along the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town.

■ **Day 7: Fly to Lhasa**  
Fly to the city of Lhasa, the heart and soul of Tibet. You'll immediately notice the difference from the bustling streets of urban China. This afternoon is at leisure to help acclimatise to the altitude.

■ **Day 8: Jokhang Temple and the Barkhor**  
Lhasa is a quickly growing modern city, but among the narrow, old streets you'll feel a million miles from the stresses and strains of the modern world. Wander around the Barkhor to see traditionally dressed locals, stalls of religious trinkets and prostrating pilgrims. Inside the Jokhang Temple, the sacred centre of Tibetan Buddhism, the devotion is palpable as queues of people worship in the flickering light of yak butter candles. There will also be a visit to Sera Monastery, a renowned seat of Buddhist learning.



▲ TERRACOTTA WARRIOR, XIAN

■ **Day 9: Potala Palace and Norbulingka**  
The Potala Palace is an architectural wonder towering over the city from its seat on Marpo Ri (Red Mountain). The Potala, the winter palace of the Dalai Lama, houses thousands of rooms filled with old treasures from intricate shrines to beautiful frescoes. This afternoon, explore Norbulingka, the summer residence of the Dalai Lama, set in parkland just outside the city. We'll then visit a local Tibetan arts and crafts shop. Enjoy a traditional Tibetan dinner and dance performance in the evening.

■ **Day 10: Fly to Chengdu**  
Fly to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, where, after a tour of Jinli Street, there will be a delicious Sichuan meal to savour.

■ **Day 11: Pandas**  
A visit to Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre allows you to see and learn about China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Visit the Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum for a close up view of the skills necessary to create these beautiful, traditional items. There will also be an opportunity to buy a unique, handmade piece. Travel to Chongqing to board your Yangtze River cruise.



▲ YU GARDENS, SHANGHAI

■ **Days 12-13: Yangtze River Cruise**  
Over the next two days prepare for one breathtaking panorama after another as you savour the spectacular scenery of the Three Gorges. Take a side trip to the attractive Goddess Stream or Shennong Stream and enjoy shore excursions to the Ghost City of Fengdu or Shibaozhai.

■ **Day 14: Three Gorges Dam**  
A man-made marvel, touring the Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. Disembark your cruise in Yichang and fly to Shanghai.

■ **Day 15: Discover Shanghai**  
Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Gardens, the atmospheric alleys of the old town and the fine arts and antiquities of the Shanghai Museum. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the historical, waterfront Bund. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise. Also sample some traditional Shanghai cuisine.

■ **Day 16: Fly Shanghai to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

**CLASSIC TOUR**

- 16 Days from
- Per person **£3,590**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- » Moderate

**2015 DEPART FRI - RETURN SAT**

10 Apr - 25 Apr	£3,590	04 Sep - 19 Sep	£3,690
01 May - 16 May	£3,590	18 Sep - 03 Oct	£3,690
15 May - 30 May	£3,590	09 Oct - 24 Oct	£3,690
29 May - 13 Jun	£3,590		

**2016 DEPART FRI - RETURN SAT**

08 Apr - 23 Apr	£3,790	02 Sep - 17 Sep	£3,890
29 Apr - 14 May	£3,790	16 Sep - 01 Oct	£3,890
13 May - 28 May	£3,790	07 Oct - 22 Oct	£3,890
27 May - 11 Jun	£3,790		

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £3,060 (Beijing - Shanghai)
  - Single room from £620
  - Tipping paid locally US\$95

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
  - Domestic transportation
  - Accommodation
  - All meals
  - Touring with guides and entrance fees
  - Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders
- Tibet permit conditions are subject to change.*

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**  
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something more independent and individual?
  - Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?
- Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.**



**Stopover in Hong Kong & Macau 4 nights from £500pp**

Combine the lively and sophisticated city of Hong Kong with glittering Macau, a former Portuguese colony, where Mediterranean influences and Las Vegas-esque glitz collide.  
See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.



▲ YANGTZE RIVER

# Grand Yangtze

Following a course carved from the landscape over millions of years, the Yangtze runs through a wealth of spectacular scenery. From dramatic gorges and pastoral panoramas to man-made wonders and imperial cities, enjoy it all at a relaxed pace on board your cruise ship

- **Cosmopolitan Shanghai**
- **Eight-night Yangtze cruise**
- **Pandas in Chengdu**
- **Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**  
Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East'. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Explore Shanghai**  
Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Gardens; the atmospheric alleys of the old town; and the fine arts and antiques of the Shanghai Museum. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund before enjoying the 1920s architectural styling of the Xintiandi area. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise.

■ **Day 4: Yangtze River Cruise**  
Board your Victoria Cruises Yangtze ship to begin an eight night cruise to Chongqing.

■ **Day 5: Nanjing**  
Half day excursion to historical Nanjing, China's capital under six dynasties. Visit the mausoleum of Dr Sun Yat Sen, set majestically on the slopes of Mount Zijin, and the memorial to Nanjing's Second World War victims.

■ **Day 6: Mt Jiuhua**  
One of the four sacred mountains of Chinese Buddhism, Mt Jiuhua is a beautiful and tranquil place dotted with age-old temples, waterfalls and pine trees. Follow one of many winding paths to find the most scenic spots.

■ **Day 7: Wuhan**  
Take a shore excursion to the characterful city of Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province, and home to Hubei Provincial Museum.

■ **Day 8: Cruising the Yangtze**  
Spend the day soaking up the sights and sounds of the river as we cruise up the Yangtze.

■ **Day 9: Three Gorges Dam**  
Sailing through the Gezhou Dam close to Yichang, we begin the approach to the Three Gorges Dam. There will be time to visit the viewing area to truly appreciate the scale of this hydroelectric project. Continuing upstream, passing through the Xiling Gorge, our boat must negotiate the five-tiered Three Gorges Dam ship lock!

■ **Day 10: Qutang and Wu Gorges**  
Prepare for breathtaking vistas as the ship passes through Qutang and Wu gorges. Switching to smaller vessels take a relaxing trip into the attractive gorges of the Shennong Streams.

■ **Day 11: Fengdu Ghost City**  
Explore the captivating temples of Fengdu and come face to face with statues of ghosts and devils on Mingshan Hill.

■ **Day 12: Drive to Chengdu**  
Disembark and visit the ancient district of Ciqikou for a tasty lunch before transferring by road to Chengdu. This evening, there will be a delicious Sichuan meal to enjoy.

## NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: AARON

The misty yellow mountains make you feel like you are wandering through a Chinese ink painting – this is my favourite part of the tour.



▲ WUHAN

■ **Day 13: Pandas**  
A visit to Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre allows you to see, and learn about, China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Fly to Xian, the ancient former capital where, this evening, there will be a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ **Day 14: Terracotta Warriors**  
After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of these life sized warriors. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and choose your own warrior to take home. Take an afternoon stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town.



▲ NANJING CONFUCIUS TEMPLE

■ **Day 15: Explore Xian, fly to Beijing**  
A relaxed morning includes time to walk through the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter which are lined with Islamic food stalls. Later, fly to Beijing, China's capital city.

■ **Day 16: Imperial Beijing**  
Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex full of imperial riches. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, before a Chinese acrobatic show rounds off the day.

■ **Day 17: Great Wall**  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the sheer magnificence of the wall itself and the dramatic scenery that it crosses. In the afternoon savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional Chinese gardens and view the exquisite architecture. This evening, savour Beijing's best known delicacy – Peking Duck.

■ **Day 18: Fly Beijing to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

## CLASSIC TOUR

- 18 Days from
- Per person **£3,390**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Comfortable

2015 DEPART TUE - RETURN FRI			
14 Apr - 01 May	£3,490	08 Sep - 25 Sep	£3,590
28 Apr - 15 May	£3,490	22 Sep - 09 Oct	£3,590
12 May - 29 May	£3,490	06 Oct - 23 Oct	£3,590
26 May - 12 Jun	£3,390	20 Oct - 06 Nov	£3,390

2016 DEPART TUE - RETURN FRI			
12 Apr - 29 Apr	£3,690	06 Sep - 23 Sep	£3,790
26 Apr - 13 May	£3,690	20 Sep - 07 Oct	£3,790
10 May - 27 May	£3,690	04 Oct - 21 Oct	£3,790
24 May - 10 Jun	£3,590	18 Oct - 04 Nov	£3,590

### Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,860 (Shanghai - Beijing)
- Single room from £990
- Tipping paid locally US\$128

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Enjoy as a Private Tour From **£3,790pp**



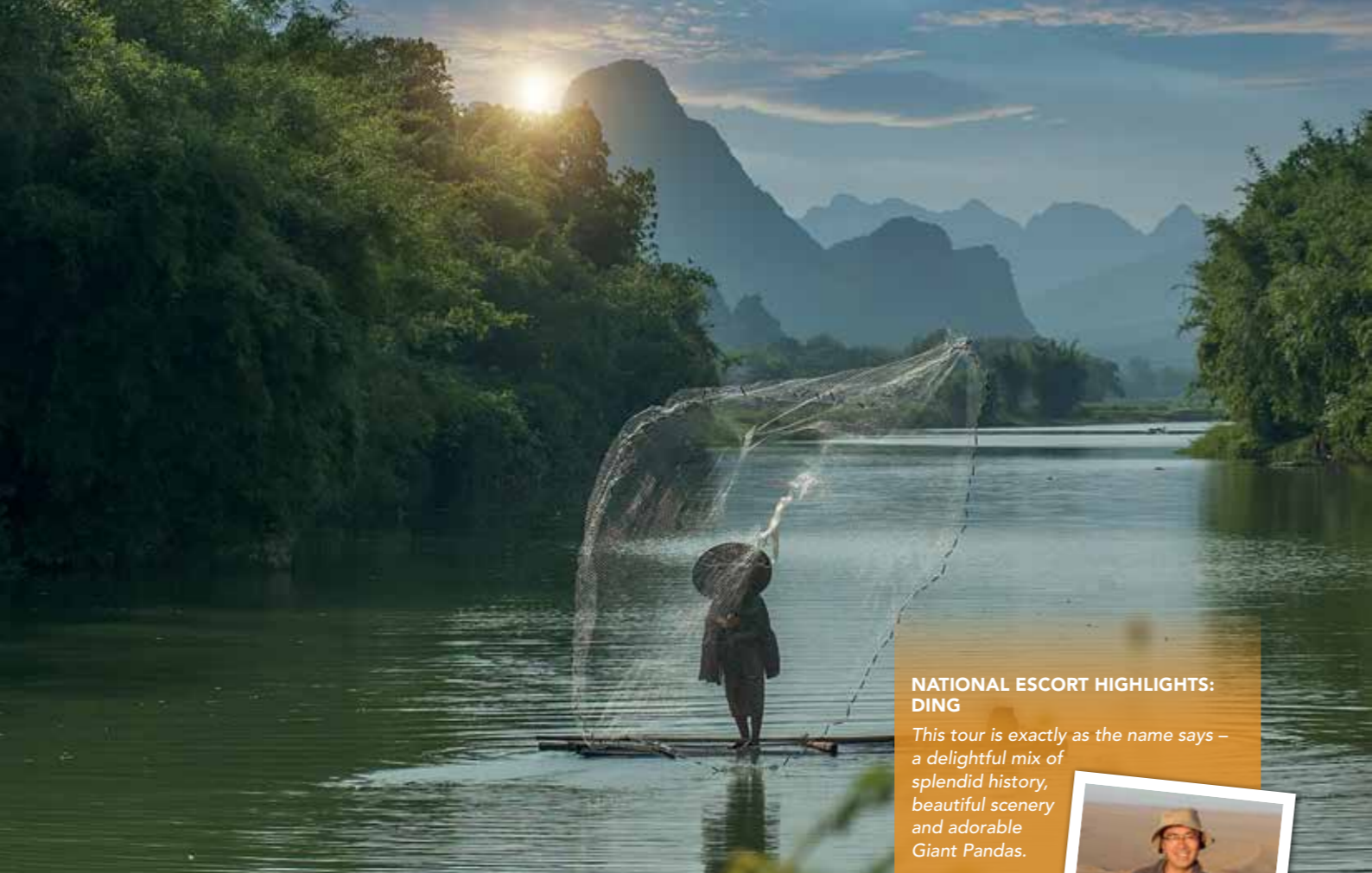
- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something a little more personal?
- Want the same levels of comfort, expertise and professional guiding but with more flexibility and your choice of hotel?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



### Stopover in Abu Dhabi 3 nights from £240pp

A modern desert metropolis it may be, but Abu Dhabi has retained a distinctive Arab charm on its attractive streets and whilst thoroughly cosmopolitan, it is a palpably more relaxed city than neighbouring Dubai. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



▲ LI RIVER, YANGSHUO

**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: DING**

*This tour is exactly as the name says – a delightful mix of splendid history, beautiful scenery and adorable Giant Pandas.*



# China Delights

From international Shanghai and the pandas of Chengdu to the imperial highlights of Beijing and all the dramatic landscapes in between, relish the historical, cultural and natural delights of China on this comprehensive trip

- **Ultramodern Shanghai**
- **Suzhou and Hangzhou Garden cities**
- **Li River Cruise**
- **Pandas, Warriors and the Wall**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**  
Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East'. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Days 3-4: Explore Shanghai**  
Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Visit the peaceful Yu Gardens and atmospheric old town before admiring the colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund. Round off the day with a delicious meal of traditional Shanghai cuisine. The next day explore ultramodern Pudong and the arts and antiquities of the Shanghai Museum. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise.

■ **Day 5: Historic Suzhou**  
Suzhou's centre has managed to retain a sense of quaint charm even as the city has grown up around it. Renowned for its gardens, visit two of the finest, the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Master of the Nets Garden, both typical of the Chinese appreciation of balance and harmony. There will also be a visit to a local silk mill.

■ **Day 6: Grand Canal and Wuzhen**  
Cruise on the thousand-year-old Grand Canal. Transfer to the water town of Wuzhen – a charming place of old-world timber buildings, cobbled streets and narrow waterways; it is an easy place to while away the day. Transfer to the city of Hangzhou.

■ **Day 7: Spiritual Hangzhou**  
A restful morning is spent wandering around the Temple of Inspired Seclusion, one of China's most renowned Buddhist temples and home to the Buddhist carvings of Feilai Feng. Visit the Six Harmonies Pagoda before cruising on Hangzhou's West Lake and admiring the gardens, pagodas and old bridges on its shores.

■ **Day 8: Fly to Guilin**  
Browse the bustling local markets and visit the plantations of Meijiawu to learn the tea-making process, from bush to brew. Enjoy a cup of organic green tea and decide which of the locally produced teas you might like to purchase. Fly to the attractive city of Guilin where the rest of the day will be at leisure.

■ **Day 9: Li River Cruise**  
Take a relaxed cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged karst peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalo and local fishermen.

■ **Day 10: Yangshuo**  
Yangshuo sits in an exquisite rural location, surrounded by landscapes of paddy fields and limestone karsts. Spend the morning exploring the countryside before an afternoon at leisure. There are many activities available including cycling, rafting and walking. In the evening see the famous cormorant fishermen.



▲ GRAND CANAL, SUZHOU



▲ GIANT PANDA, CHENGDU

■ **Day 11: Fly to Chengdu**  
Return to Guilin visiting Reed Flute Cave to admire the colourful stalagmites and stalactites. Fly to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province.

■ **Day 12: Grand Buddha of Leshan**  
Travel to Leshan to visit the Grand Buddha which, at 71 metres, is the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist monument. A short boat trip will give excellent views from the river. Returning to Chengdu, there will be a stop at riverside Huanglongxi, where cobbled streets and rickety buildings retain the charms of the Qing Dynasty. Sample a delicious Sichuan meal this evening.

■ **Day 13: Giant Pandas**  
Visit Chengdu's famous reserve to see and learn about China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Fly to Xian, the ancient former capital. This evening sit down to a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ **Day 14: Terracotta Warriors**  
Visit the Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. The warriors have intrigued visitors ever since their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s – spend the morning viewing their enigmatic ranks. Later stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town.

■ **Day 15: Train to Beijing**  
Take a fascinating morning visit to the Little Wild Goose Pagoda and a walk through the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter. Board an overnight train to Beijing.

■ **Day 16: Temple of Heaven**  
Arrive in Beijing. Relax and soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. A Chinese acrobatic show rounds off the day.

■ **Day 17: Great Wall**  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the sheer magnificence of the wall itself and the dramatic scenery that it crosses. Later on you'll visit the Jade Museum.

■ **Day 18: Imperial Beijing**  
Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, cross Tiananmen Square and head into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City – a complex full of imperial treasures. Take some time in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace before dining on Beijing's best known delicacy – Peking Duck.

■ **Day 19: Fly Beijing to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

## CLASSIC TOUR

- 19 Days from
- Per person **£2,490**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- » Moderate

2015 DEPART MON - RETURN FRI			
20 Apr - 08 May	£2,990	21 Sep - 09 Oct	£3,090
04 May - 22 May	£2,990	05 Oct - 23 Oct	£3,090
25 May - 12 Jun	£2,990	19 Oct - 06 Nov	£2,890
03 Aug - 21 Aug	£3,290	16 Nov - 04 Dec	£2,490
07 Sep - 25 Sep	£3,090		

2016 DEPART MON - RETURN FRI			
18 Apr - 06 May	£3,190	19 Sep - 07 Oct	£3,290
02 May - 20 May	£3,190	03 Oct - 21 Oct	£3,290
23 May - 10 Jun	£3,190	17 Oct - 04 Nov	£3,090
01 Aug - 19 Aug	£3,490	14 Nov - 02 Dec	£2,690
05 Sep - 23 Sep	£3,290		

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £1,960 (Shanghai - Beijing)
  - Single room from £390
  - Tipping paid locally US\$80

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Stopover in Hong Kong**  
3 nights from £290pp

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.





▲ VICTORIA HARBOUR, HONG KONG

# Cities of the Orient

Embark on a comprehensive journey through the great cities of China – Shanghai, Beijing, Xian and Hong Kong, interspersed with unmissable sights that encompass ancient treasures, natural wonders and tranquil landscapes

- **Cosmopolitan Shanghai**
- **The Yangtze and Li Rivers**
- **Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors**
- **Illustrious Hong Kong**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**  
Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Explore Shanghai**  
Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Visit the peaceful Yu Gardens and the atmospheric alleys of the old town before admiring magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the famous Bund. Follow the age-old silk production process at the Silk Museum, from the cultivation of silkworms up to creating the final piece. There are also many gorgeous items for sale. This evening sample some traditional Shanghai cuisine.

■ **Day 4: Fly to Beijing**  
Spend the morning admiring the arts and antiquities of Shanghai Museum and walking around People's Square before flying to Beijing. This evening sit down to a traditional dinner of Peking Duck.

■ **Day 5: Imperial Beijing**  
Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape.

■ **Day 6: The Great Wall**  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the wall itself and the dramatic scenery that it crosses. Savour an afternoon in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional gardens. You will have an opportunity to visit a Jade Museum, where you will be able to buy a small handcrafted piece. A Chinese acrobatic show rounds off the day.

■ **Day 7: Fly to Xian**  
Fly to Xian, the ancient former capital. Admire the thousands of relics at the Shaanxi Museum before a delicious feast of Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ **Day 8: Terracotta Warriors**  
After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks. Later stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town and explore the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter.

■ **Day 9: Fly to Wuhan**  
Fly to Wuhan and transfer to Yichang to board your Yangtze River Cruise vessel.

## NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: LILY

The cruise down the Li River through the magnificent limestone hills to the scenic town of Yangshuo is a great contrast to the developed city of Shanghai.



▲ THE BUND, SHANGHAI

■ **Days 10-12: Yangtze River Cruise**  
A man-made marvel, the Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. But as we cruise upstream nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. Over the next three days prepare for one breathtaking panorama after another. Take a side trip to the attractive Goddess or Shennong Stream and enjoy shore excursions to the Ghost City of Fengdu or Shibaozhai.

■ **Day 13: Reed Flute Cave**  
Disembark and visit the Panda House at Chongqing Zoo. Fly to the scenic city of Guilin and visit the colourful formations of Reed Flute Cave.

■ **Day 14: Li River Cruise**  
Take a relaxed cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged karst peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalo and local fishermen.

■ **Day 15: Yangshuo**  
Yangshuo sits in an exquisite rural location, surrounded by landscapes of paddy fields and dramatic limestone karsts. Spend the morning exploring the countryside before an afternoon at leisure. There are many activities available including cycling, rafting and walking if you wish. In the evening see the famous cormorant fishermen.



▲ YU GARDENS, SHANGHAI

■ **Day 16: Fly to Hong Kong**  
Fly to Hong Kong. Metropolis and wilderness collide – a futuristic cityscape backed by green-cloaked hills and the blue of the South China Sea. Full of colonial heritage, Chinese character, and a varied and distinguished gastronomy this is a wonderful city to explore. The day is yours to spend at leisure. (B)

■ **Day 17: Victoria Peak**  
Visit Victoria Peak for mesmerizing views over skyscrapers, bays and islands; and bustling Stanley Market. Discover Aberdeen Fishing Village, home to rows of old-fashioned junks and houseboats. (B)

■ **Day 18: Giant Buddha and Lantau Island**  
Take a ferry through Victoria Harbour to spend the day on the lovely island of Lantau. Rediscover wilderness as you visit Cheung Sha Beach, Tai O fishing village and the Giant Buddha. A ride in the Ngong Ping 360° cable-car gives fantastic panoramas over the island's coastline. Enjoy dinner atop Victoria Peak. (B,D)

■ **Days 19-20: Fly to UK**  
Tour the New Territories paying visits to the Sam Mun Tsai Fishing Zone, the tranquil Yuen Yuen Institute, Luk Keng bird sanctuary and Tai Mo Shan Mountain to take in the wonderful views. The rest of the afternoon is free before your transfer to Hong Kong airport for your overnight flight to the UK. (B)

## CLASSIC TOUR

- 20 Days from
- Per person **£3,490**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- » Moderate

2015 DEPART TUES - RETURN SUN			
17 Mar - 05 Apr	£3,590	18 Aug - 06 Sep	£3,990
07 Apr - 26 Apr	£3,690	01 Sep - 20 Sep	£3,790
14 Apr - 03 May	£3,690	08 Sep - 27 Sep	£3,790
05 May - 24 May	£3,590	15 Sep - 04 Oct	£3,790
12 May - 31 May	£3,590	06 Oct - 25 Oct	£3,890
19 May - 07 Jun	£3,590	20 Oct - 08 Nov	£3,890
02 Jun - 21 Jun	£3,490	03 Nov - 22 Nov	£3,690

2016 DEPART TUES - RETURN SUN			
15 Mar - 03 Apr	£3,790	16 Aug - 04 Sep	£4,190
05 Apr - 24 Apr	£3,890	06 Sep - 25 Sep	£3,990
12 Apr - 01 May	£3,890	13 Sep - 02 Oct	£3,990
03 May - 22 May	£3,790	20 Sep - 09 Oct	£3,990
10 May - 29 May	£3,790	04 Oct - 23 Oct	£4,090
17 May - 05 Jun	£3,790	18 Oct - 06 Nov	£4,090
31 May - 19 Jun	£3,690	01 Nov - 20 Nov	£3,890

**Flight and supplement information**  
Based on London Heathrow departures  
 ■ Flight upgrades available on request  
 ■ Land only from £3,095 (Shanghai - Hong Kong)  
 ■ Single room from £740  
 ■ Tipping paid locally US\$95 & HKD330

**Price includes:**  
 ■ International flights and current taxes  
 ■ Domestic transportation  
 ■ Accommodation  
 ■ All meals (excluding Hong Kong)  
 ■ Touring with guides and entrance fees  
 ■ Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders  
 Please note that to allow you the greatest degree of flexibility for your time in Hong Kong not all meals have been included.

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**  
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Extend in Macau**  
2 nights from **£290pp**  
Discover the former Portuguese colony of Macau, a glittering combination of Mediterranean and Asian influences, where conservative colonial heritage rubs shoulders with brash, Las Vegas-esque casinos. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: SARAH**

You will enjoy China's wonderful cities of Beijing, Xian, Guilin, Kunming and Shanghai but the Stone Forest is wonderful – use your imagination to make the most of it.



▲ FORBIDDEN CITY, BEIJING

# Classic China

Cruise along the Yangtze and Li Rivers and let the spectacular landscapes of Yunnan province take your breath away. Saunter around the cobbled streets of old Lijiang, gaze on the magnificent Tiger Leaping Gorge and explore the mysterious Stone Forest on this diverse adventure

- Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors
- Yangtze River Cruise
- Quaint Lijiang
- Spectacular Tiger Leaping Gorge

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**  
Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai. Depending on your time of arrival the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Explore Shanghai**  
Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Today's explorations include the peaceful Yu Gardens and the atmospheric alleys of the old town before admiring the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise before enjoying traditional Shanghai cuisine.

■ **Day 4: Fly to Beijing**  
Fly to Beijing, China's capital city. This evening, savour Beijing's best known delicacy – Peking Duck.

■ **Day 5: Great Wall**  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the sheer magnificence of the wall itself and the dramatic scenery that it crosses. Jade has been long cherished by the Chinese. At the Jade Museum you can understand and appreciate the delicate process of carving the stone and buy a piece if you wish. Savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander amongst traditional Chinese gardens and see the exquisite architecture. Enjoy an evening Chinese acrobatic show.

■ **Day 6: Imperial Beijing**  
Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex full of imperial riches. Finally, soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. Board the overnight train to Xian, the ancient former capital.

■ **Day 7: Explore Xian**  
Arrive in Xian. Visit the Little Wild Goose Pagoda before admiring the thousands of fascinating relics at the Shaanxi Museum. There will also be time to explore the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter, which are lined with Islamic food stalls, before a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing in the evening.

■ **Day 8: Terracotta Warriors**  
After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of these life-like warriors. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and buy a souvenir warrior to take home. Take an afternoon stroll on Xian's beautifully preserved 14th century city walls.

■ **Day 9: Fly to Wuhan**  
Fly to Wuhan and transfer to Yichang to board the Yangtze River Cruise vessel.



▲ JADE DRAGON SNOW MOUNTAIN



▲ SUMMER PALACE, BEIJING

■ **Days 10-12: Yangtze River Cruise**  
A man-made marvel, the Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. But as we cruise upstream nature takes over, revealing some of world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. Over the next three days prepare for one breathtaking panorama after another. Take a side trip to the attractive Goddess or Shennong Stream and enjoy shore excursions to the Ghost City of Fengdu or Shibaozhai.

■ **Day 13: Fly to Guilin**  
Disembark from the cruise vessel and visit the Panda House at Chongqing Zoo before flying to the scenic city of Guilin.

■ **Day 14: Li River Cruise**  
Take a relaxed cruise along Li River. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged karst peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalo and local fishermen. Return to Guilin.

■ **Days 15-16: The Stone Forest**  
Visit Reed Flute Cave to admire the colourful stalagmites and stalactites. The South China Pearl Museum covers the fascinating 1700 year history of pearling in the South China Sea with displays and demonstrations. There are also beautiful pieces available to buy. Fly to Kunming, one of China's most pleasant cities and dine on the famous Across the Bridge Noodles. The next day, explore the fascinating formations of the picturesque Stone Forest.

■ **Day 17: Fly to Lijiang**  
Fly to Lijiang in Yunnan province. The quintessential Chinese 'old town', Lijiang's old quarter is a jumble of cobbled streets, precarious wooden buildings and rustic stone bridges – in short, a delightful place to aimlessly wander. There will also be a visit to Black Dragon Pool where there are wonderful views of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain massif.

■ **Day 18: Tiger Leaping Gorge**  
Over 3,000-metres deep, Tiger Leaping Gorge with its backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is one of China's most dramatic sights. The whole area is spectacular – prepare for breathtaking views. You will also visit a local embroidery school where young tribes-people learn vital skills and create handcrafts.

■ **Day 19: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**  
A magnificent mountain massif, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain incorporates several peaks, the tallest of which is 5,500 metres. Taking a chairlift, explore one of the beautiful high meadows and enjoy the amazing vistas. Fly back to Kunming.

■ **Day 20: Fly Kunming to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

**CLASSIC TOUR**

- 20 Days from
- Per person **£3,590**
- Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate

**2015 DEPART WED - RETURN TUE**

25 Mar - 14 Apr	£3,690	02 Sep - 22 Sep	£3,790
08 Apr - 28 Apr	£3,690	09 Sep - 29 Sep	£3,790
06 May - 26 May	£3,690	16 Sep - 06 Oct	£3,790
13 May - 02 Jun	£3,690	23 Sep - 13 Oct	£3,790
27 May - 16 Jun	£3,690	07 Oct - 27 Oct	£3,790
17 Jun - 07 Jul	£3,590		

**2016 DEPART WED - RETURN TUE**

23 Mar - 12 Apr	£3,890	31 Aug - 20 Sep	£3,990
06 Apr - 26 Apr	£3,890	07 Sep - 27 Sep	£3,990
04 May - 24 May	£3,890	14 Sep - 04 Oct	£3,990
11 May - 31 May	£3,890	21 Sep - 11 Oct	£3,990
25 May - 14 Jun	£3,890	05 Oct - 25 Oct	£3,990
15 Jun - 05 Jul	£3,790		

- Flight and supplement information**
- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £3,010 (Shanghai - Kunming)
  - Single room from £720
  - Tipping paid locally US\$105

- Price includes:**
- International flights and current taxes
  - Domestic transportation
  - Accommodation
  - All meals
  - Touring with guides and entrance fees
  - Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**

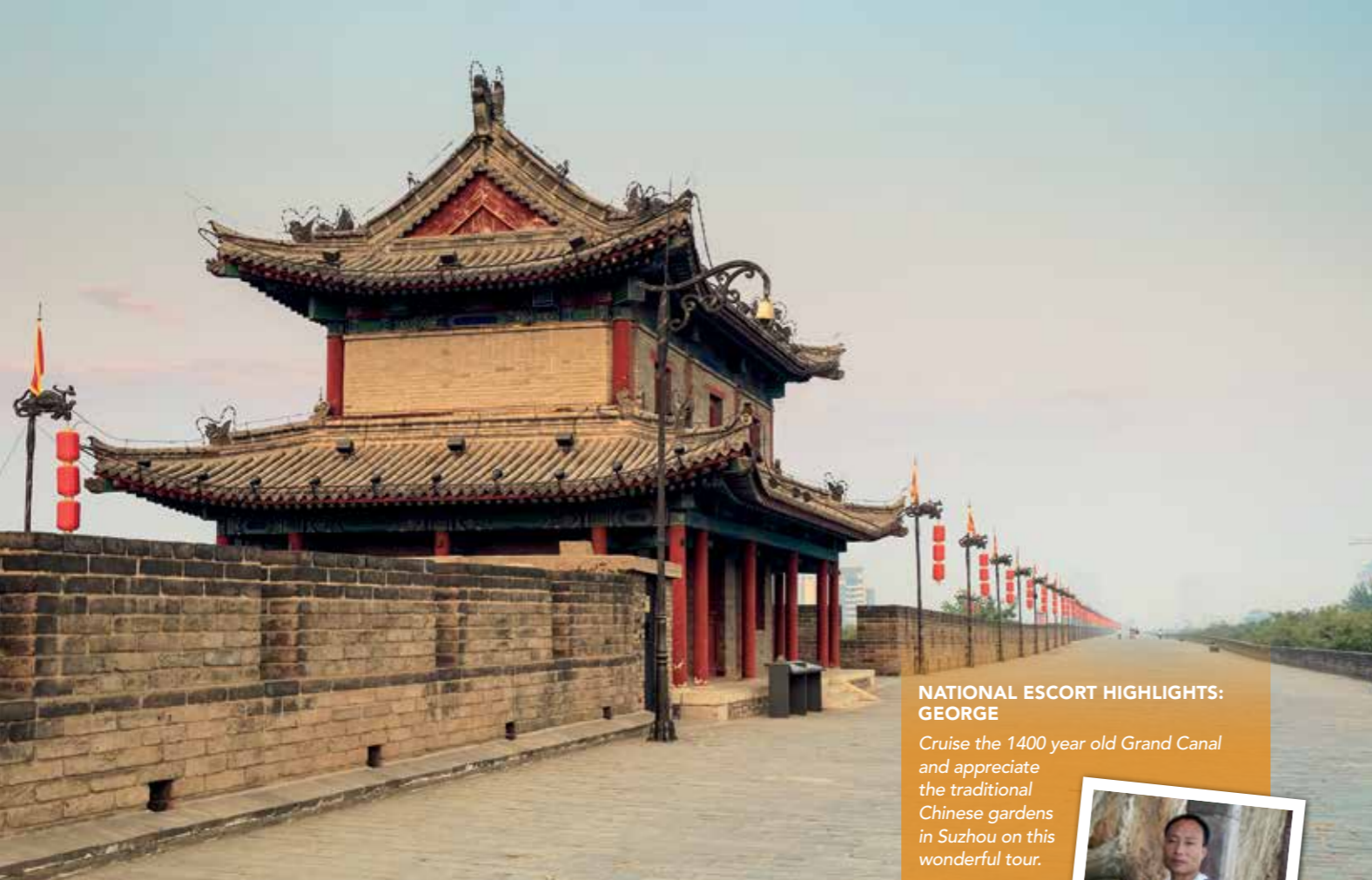
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something more independent and individual?
  - Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?
- Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Stopover in Hong Kong**  
3 nights from £290pp

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



▲ ANCIENT CITY WALL, XIAN

**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: GEORGE**

Cruise the 1400 year old Grand Canal and appreciate the traditional Chinese gardens in Suzhou on this wonderful tour.



# Magnificent China

China is home to a great number of magnificent and world-renowned sights. This tour incorporates them all – cruise along the mighty Yangtze and languid Li Rivers, visit the adorable pandas and admire the astonishing Great Wall and Terracotta Army

- Pandas, the Wall and Warriors
- Yangtze and Li Rivers Cruise
- Leshan's Grand Buddha
- Gardens of Suzhou

**Day 1-2: Fly to Beijing**

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

**Day 3: Imperial Beijing**

Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City to discover a complex full of imperial riches. Later, enjoy a rickshaw ride through the warren-like hutongs. This evening sit down to a traditional dinner of Peking Duck.

**Day 4: Great Wall**

Visit China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. There is no better way to appreciate the magnificence of this incredible structure than a walk along it. Savour an afternoon in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace.

**Day 5: Temple of Heaven**

Indulge in some shopping at Beijing's bustling markets and soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. A Chinese acrobatic show rounds off the day.

**Day 6: Fly to Xian**

Fly to Xian, the ancient former capital. Admire the fascinating treasures of the Shaanxi Museum, before a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a Tang Dynasty dance show.

**Day 7: Terracotta Warriors**

The Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang has long intrigued visitors. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life-like warriors. Take an afternoon stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town. Also explore the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter and the many Islamic food stalls.

**Day 8: Fly to Wuhan**

Fly to Wuhan and transfer to Yichang to board your Yangtze River Cruise vessel.

**Days 9-11: Yangtze River Cruise**

The Three Gorges Dam showcases a massive feat of engineering but as we cruise upstream nature takes over, revealing some of world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. Over the next three days prepare for one breathtaking panorama after another, and take a side trip to the attractive Shennong Stream and the Ghost City of Fengdu.

**Day 12: Ciqikou**

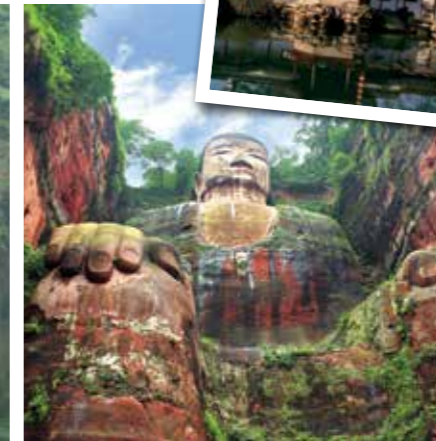
After disembarking, explore old Ciqikou, whose narrow streets are perfect for a morning stroll to admire the traditional architecture. Transfer to Chengdu.

**Day 13: Grand Buddha of Leshan**

Travel to Leshan to visit the Grand Buddha which, at 71 metres, is the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist monument. A short boat trip will give excellent views from the river. Returning to Chengdu, there will be a stop at riverside Huanglongxi, where cobbled streets and rickety wooden buildings retain the charms of the Qing Dynasty. Sample a delicious Sichuan meal this evening.



▲ TRIBES OF THE THREE GORGES



▲ GRAND BUDDHA, LESHAN

**Day 14: Giant Pandas**

Visit Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre to see and learn about China's celebrated bears in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. A look around the informative museum gives an overview of the Reserve's breeding programme. Later, fly to the attractive city of Guilin.

**Day 15: Li River Cruise**

Take a relaxed cruise along the Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged karst peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalo and local fishermen.

**Day 16: Yangshuo**

Yangshuo sits in an exquisite rural location, surrounded by green paddy fields and dramatic limestone karsts. Spend the morning exploring the countryside before an afternoon at leisure. There are many optional activities available including cycling, rafting and walking. In the evening see the famous cormorant fishermen.

**Day 17: Reed Flute Caves**

Drive back to Guilin to discover the colourful stalagmites and stalactites of Reed Flute Cave. The South China Pearl Museum covers the fascinating 1,700 year history of pearling in the South China Sea with displays and demonstrations. There are also beautiful pieces available to buy. Fly to Shanghai and transfer to the garden city of Suzhou.

**Day 18: Historic Suzhou**

Suzhou is renowned for its gardens – visit two of the finest, the Humble Administrator's and the Master of the Nets. Cruise the Grand Canal and return to Shanghai to dine on local cuisine.

**Days 19-20: Discover Shanghai**

Shanghai is China's great metropolis, east and west colliding on streets lined with skyscrapers and old temples. Visit the peaceful Yu Gardens and atmospheric old town before admiring the architecture on the Bund. You will also visit the Shanghai Museum. The next day explore futuristic Pudong and view the city from the Huangpu River with a panoramic cruise.

**Day 21: Fly Shanghai to UK**

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



**Stopover in Dubai  
2 nights from £220pp**

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination full of futuristic architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig a little deeper and you'll find a rich culture centred on the labyrinthine old city.

See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.

**CLASSIC TOUR**

21 Days from

Per person **£2,990**

Fully inclusive from UK

Comfortable

**2015 DEPART SUN - RETURN SAT**

08 Mar - 28 Mar	£3,190	02 Aug - 22 Aug	£3,690
15 Mar - 04 Apr	£3,290	09 Aug - 29 Aug	£3,690
22 Mar - 11 Apr	£3,390	16 Aug - 05 Sep	£3,590
29 Mar - 18 Apr	£3,390	28 Aug - 17 Sep*	£3,490
05 Apr - 25 Apr	£3,390	30 Aug - 19 Sep	£3,490
12 Apr - 02 May	£3,390	02 Sep - 22 Sep*	£3,490
19 Apr - 09 May	£3,390	06 Sep - 26 Sep	£3,490
24 Apr - 14 May*	£3,390	09 Sep - 29 Sep*	£3,490
26 Apr - 16 May	£3,390	11 Sep - 01 Oct*	£3,490
03 May - 23 May	£3,390	13 Sep - 03 Oct	£3,490
08 May - 28 May*	£3,390	18 Sep - 08 Oct*	£3,490
10 May - 30 May	£3,390	20 Sep - 10 Oct	£3,490
15 May - 04 Jun*	£3,390	25 Sep - 15 Oct*	£3,490
17 May - 06 Jun	£3,390	04 Oct - 24 Oct	£3,490
24 May - 13 Jun	£3,390	07 Oct - 27 Oct*	£3,490
31 May - 20 Jun	£3,290	11 Oct - 31 Oct	£3,490
07 Jun - 27 Jun	£3,290	25 Oct - 14 Nov	£3,190
21 Jun - 11 Jul	£3,290	01 Nov - 21 Nov	£2,990
05 Jul - 25 Jul	£3,290		

**2016 DEPART SUN - RETURN SAT**

06 Mar - 26 Mar	£3,390	31 Jul - 20 Aug	£3,890
13 Mar - 02 Apr	£3,490	07 Aug - 27 Aug	£3,890
20 Mar - 09 Apr	£3,590	14 Aug - 03 Sep	£3,790
27 Mar - 16 Apr	£3,590	21 Aug - 10 Sep	£3,690
03 Apr - 23 Apr	£3,590	28 Aug - 17 Sep	£3,690
10 Apr - 30 Apr	£3,590	02 Sep - 22 Sep*	£3,690
17 Apr - 07 May	£3,590	04 Sep - 24 Sep	£3,690
22 Apr - 12 May*	£3,590	07 Sep - 27 Sep*	£3,690
24 Apr - 14 May	£3,590	09 Sep - 29 Sep*	£3,690
06 May - 26 May*	£3,590	11 Sep - 01 Oct	£3,690
08 May - 28 May	£3,590	16 Sep - 06 Oct*	£3,690
13 May - 02 Jun*	£3,590	18 Sep - 08 Oct	£3,690
15 May - 04 Jun	£3,590	23 Sep - 13 Oct*	£3,690
22 May - 11 Jun	£3,590	25 Sep - 15 Oct	£3,690
29 May - 18 Jun	£3,590	07 Oct - 27 Oct*	£3,690
05 Jun - 25 Jun	£3,490	09 Oct - 29 Oct	£3,690
19 Jun - 09 Jul	£3,490	23 Oct - 12 Nov	£3,390
03 Jul - 23 Jul	£3,490	30 Oct - 19 Nov	£3,190

\* Days of the week different to those stated

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,460 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £620
- Tipping paid locally US\$105

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation and all meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Enjoy as a Private Tour  
From **£4,390pp**

- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something a little more independent?
  - Want the same levels of service, comfort and expertise but on a more personal level?
- Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ SUNSET AT WEST LAKE, HANGZHOU

**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: MICHAEL**

*This is one of the only tours which visits the wonderful Buddhist Rock Carvings in Dazu – no matter how many times I take clients there, it always impresses me.*



# China Highlights

China is an intoxicating blend of ancient and modern. From the hidden treasures missed by many to the well-known wonders famous across the world, this extensive tour covers all of China's very best highlights

- **Cosmopolitan Shanghai**
- **Garden cities of Hangzhou and Suzhou**
- **Dazu's magnificent rock carvings**
- **Pandas, the Wall and Warriors**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**  
Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East'. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Discover Shanghai**  
Admire the antiquities of the Shanghai Museum and stroll around People's Square before enjoying the 1920s architectural styling of Xintiandi. Enjoy the ambiance of the Yu Gardens and explore the atmospheric old town. This evening sample traditional Shanghai cuisine.

■ **Day 4: The Bund**  
Admire the magnificent colonial architecture along the Bund. Browse the shops on Nanjing Road before viewing the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise.

■ **Day 5: Historic Suzhou**  
Suzhou's centre has managed to retain a quaint charm even as the city has grown up around it. Renowned for its gardens, visit two of the finest, the Humble Administrator's and the Master of the Nets, both typical of the Chinese appreciation of balance and harmony. Visit a local silk mill.

■ **Day 6: Grand Canal and Wuzhen**  
Cruise on the thousand-year-old Grand Canal then transfer to the water town of Wuzhen. Full of old-world buildings, cobbled streets and narrow waterways it is an easy place to while away the day. Transfer to Hangzhou.

■ **Day 7: Hangzhou**  
Spend a restful morning wandering around the Temple of Inspired Seclusion and visit the Six Harmonies Pagoda before cruising Hangzhou's West Lake.

■ **Day 8: Fly to Guilin**  
Visit the lush green tea farms to learn about the tea making process, from bush to brew. Enjoy a cup of organic green tea whilst deciding which of the locally produced teas you might like to purchase. Fly to the city of Guilin.

■ **Day 9: Li River Cruise**  
Cruise along the Li River to charming Yangshuo. Around every bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged peaks loom over scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalo and local fishermen.

■ **Day 10: Yangshuo**  
Yangshuo sits amidst green paddy fields and dramatic limestone karsts – spend the morning exploring. Your afternoon is free but there are many activities available including cycling, rafting and walking. In the evening see the famous cormorant fishermen.

■ **Days 11-12: The Stone Forest**  
Visit Reed Flute Cave. Fly to the pleasant city of Kunming and sample delicious Across the Bridge Noodles. The next day, explore the fascinating formations of the Stone Forest.

■ **Day 13: Fly to Chongqing**  
Spend the morning exploring the scenic Western Hills and Dianchi Lake before taking a flight to Chongqing. Visit Erlin Park and saunter along the winding paths past pavilions, ponds and bridges.



▲ GREAT WALL OF CHINA



▲ YANGSHUO

■ **Day 14: Dazu Rock Carvings**  
Explore old Ciqikou whose narrow streets are perfect for a stroll to admire the historic architecture. Travel to Dazu to marvel at the Beishan Frescos. Influenced by Buddhist, Confucian and Taoist beliefs, some date back to the 7th century.

■ **Day 15: Journey to Chengdu**  
After a visit to the magnificent Baoding Stone Carvings travel to Chengdu. Sample a delicious, typical Sichuan meal this evening.

■ **Day 16: Grand Buddha of Leshan**  
Travel to Leshan to visit the 71-metre tall Grand Buddha – a short boat trip on the river will give excellent views. Return to Chengdu with a stop at Huanglongxi where cobbled streets and rickety buildings retain the charms of the Qing Dynasty.

■ **Day 17: Pandas**  
Visit Chengdu's famous Panda Centre to see these celebrated bears in surroundings reminiscent of their natural habitat. Fly to Xian where, tonight, we feast on traditional Shui Jiao dumplings before a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ **Day 18: Terracotta Warriors**  
The Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang have intrigued visitors for years – spend the morning viewing their enigmatic ranks, and visit the workshop where you can buy your own little warrior. Later stroll on Xian's beautifully preserved 14th century city walls.

■ **Day 19: Train to Beijing**  
Admire the fascinating relics of the Shaanxi Museum and pay a visit to the lovely little Wild Goose Pagoda. Take a stroll through the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter, before boarding an overnight train to Beijing.

■ **Day 20: Imperial Beijing**  
Stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City, where you'll find a complex full of imperial treasures. Round off the day with a Chinese acrobatic show.

■ **Day 21: Great Wall**  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate its sheer magnificence. In the afternoon savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace.

■ **Day 22: Temple of Heaven**  
Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven and explore the Tibetan Buddhist Lama Temple where, amongst clouds of incense, you'll find prayer wheels, frescoes and decorative arches galore. This evening, savour Beijing's best known delicacy – Peking Duck.

■ **Day 23: Fly Beijing to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

**CLASSIC TOUR**

- 23 Days from
- Per person **£2,890**
- Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate

2015 DEPART SAT - RETURN SUN			
14 Feb - 10 Mar*	£2,890	25 Jul - 16 Aug	£3,790
14 Mar - 05 Apr	£3,290	05 Sep - 27 Sep	£3,590
18 Apr - 10 May	£3,490	26 Sep - 18 Oct	£3,590
09 May - 31 May	£3,490	10 Oct - 01 Nov	£3,490
06 Jun - 28 Jun	£3,390	14 Nov - 06 Dec	£2,890

2016 DEPART SAT - RETURN SUN			
20 Feb - 13 Mar	£2,990	23 Jul - 14 Aug	£3,990
12 Mar - 03 Apr	£3,490	03 Sep - 25 Sep	£3,790
16 Apr - 08 May	£3,690	24 Sep - 16 Oct	£3,790
07 May - 29 May	£3,690	08 Oct - 30 Oct	£3,690
04 Jun - 26 Jun	£3,590	12 Nov - 04 Dec	£2,990

\* Operates to 2014 itinerary (2 days longer)

- Flight and supplement information**
- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £2,360 (Shanghai - Beijing)
  - Single room from £590
  - Tipping paid locally US\$100

- Price includes:**
- International flights and current taxes
  - Domestic transportation
  - Accommodation
  - All meals
  - Touring with guides and entrance fees
  - Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**

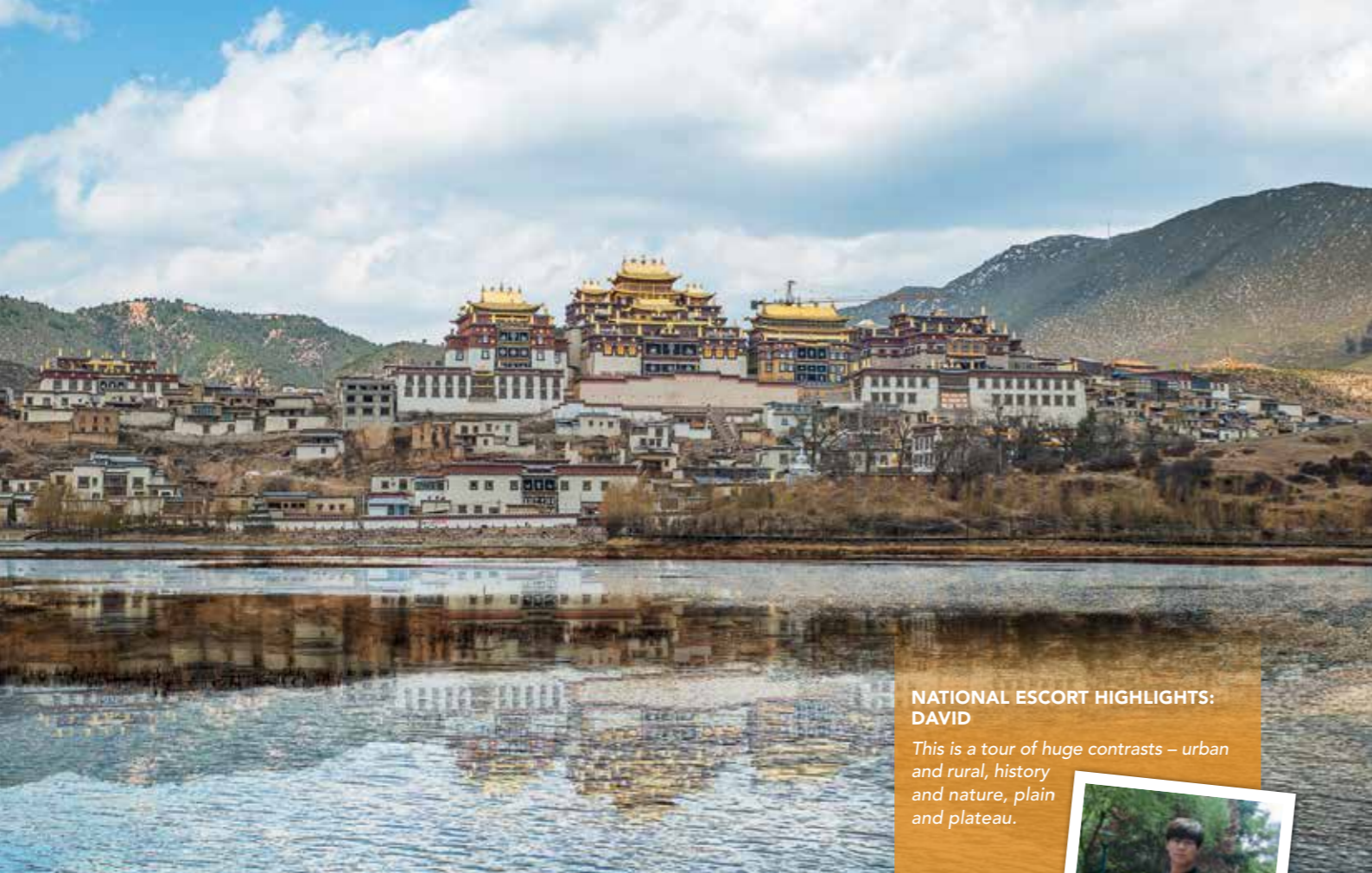
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something more independent and individual?
  - Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?
- Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Stopover in Doha**  
3 nights from £340pp

Doha, the newest metropolitan player on the Persian Gulf, is a city on the verge of greatness. Perhaps more conservative than Abu Dhabi and Dubai but its exotic skyline, atmospheric souqs and pristine malls can rival both. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: DAVID**

*This is a tour of huge contrasts – urban and rural, history and nature, plain and plateau.*



▲ SONGZANLIN, ZHONGDIAN

# China Encounters

Encounter all of the magnificent sights that make China a truly spectacular destination. Journey from the iconic Wall and enigmatic Warriors to the more off-the-beaten-track mountain vistas of Yunnan province on this epic cross-country adventure

- **Pandas, the Wall and Warriors**
- **Chengde's imperial architecture**
- **Spiritual Zhongdian**
- **Tiger Leaping Gorge**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Imperial Beijing**

Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City where you will find a complex full of imperial riches. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. This evening sit down to a traditional dinner of Peking Duck.

■ **Days 4-5: Chengde**

Travel by train to Chengde. The summer retreat of Manchu emperors, this town is home to a wealth of imperial architecture. Over two days visit the magnificent mountain villas and intricate temples, including Puning and Puyou. Return by train to Beijing.

■ **Day 6: Great Wall**

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate its sheer magnificence. Savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace before boarding an overnight train to Xian.

■ **Days 7-8: Terracotta Warriors**

Arrive in Xian and enjoy a delightful visit to the Little Wild Goose Pagoda. Tonight feast on traditional Shui Jiao dumplings before a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing. The next day, view the enigmatic ranks of warriors that make up the Terracotta Army. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and choose to purchase one to take home. Later stroll Xian's 14th century city walls.

■ **Day 9: Train to Wuhan**

Take the bullet train to Wuhan and transfer to Yichang to board your Yangtze River Cruise vessel.

■ **Days 10-12: Yangtze River Cruise**

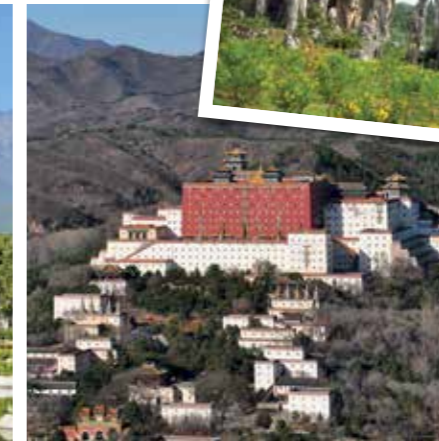
A man-made marvel, the Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. But as we cruise upstream nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. Over the next three days prepare for one breathtaking panorama after another. Take a side trip to the attractive Goddess or Shennong Stream and enjoy shore excursions to the Ghost City of Fengdu or Shibaozhai.

■ **Day 13: Drive to Chengdu**

Disembark and explore old Ciqikou, whose narrow streets are perfect for a stroll to admire the traditional architecture. Transfer to Chengdu.



▲ THREE PAGODAS, DALI



▲ PUTUO ZONGCHENG TEMPLE, CHENGDE

■ **Day 14: Pandas**

Head to Chengdu's famous Panda Centre to see these celebrated bears in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Visit Mt Qincheng, an important centre of Taoism, and explore colourful markets before a delicious, typically Sichuan dinner.

■ **Day 15: Fly to Zhongdian**

Fly to the monastery town of Zhongdian, also known as Shangri-La.

■ **Days 16-17: Tibetan Zhongdian**

Tour Zhongdian old town, catch a glimpse of rural life in a traditional village and visit the magnificent Songzanlin Monastery, at the foot of Foping Mountain, and its many treasures. The next day explore the Baishui Terrace, where spring water cascades picturesquely over white limestone formed over thousands of years.

■ **Day 18: Tiger Leaping Gorge**

The 3000-metre deep Tiger Leaping Gorge, with its backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is one of China's most extraordinary sights. The whole area is spectacular – prepare for breathtaking views before you travel on to Lijiang.

■ **Day 19: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**

A magnificent mountain massif, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain incorporates several peaks, the tallest of which is 5,500 metres. Taking a chairlift, explore one of the gorgeous high meadows and enjoy the amazing vistas. Visit Baisha Old Town to view the fascinating murals, painted during the early Ming Dynasty.

■ **Day 20: Black Dragon Pool**

The quintessential Chinese 'old town', Lijiang's old quarter is a jumble of cobbled streets, precarious wooden buildings and rustic stone bridges – in short, a delightful place to aimlessly wander. Also visit Black Dragon Pool where there are wonderful views of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Travel to Dali and explore the lively Foreigners Street.

■ **Days 21-22: Enchanting Dali**

Dali is a charming place to visit. Explore the old quarter and pop over to Xizhou village to browse the local market. At the Yen Family House, an ancient courtyard home, there will be a tie-dye demonstration. The next day visit the Three Pagodas and travel by road to Kunming. Tuck into local Across the Bridge noodles for dinner.

■ **Day 23: Stone Forest**

Explore the fascinating formations of the picturesque Stone Forest.

■ **Day 24: Fly Kunming to UK**

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

**CLASSIC TOUR**

24 Days from

Per person **£3,590**

✓ Fully inclusive from UK

» Moderate

**2015 DEPART TUE - RETURN FRI**

07 Apr - 01 May	£3,590	18 Aug - 11 Sep	£3,890
28 Apr - 22 May	£3,590	08 Sep - 02 Oct	£3,690
12 May - 05 Jun	£3,590	22 Sep - 16 Oct	£3,690
26 May - 19 Jun	£3,590	13 Oct - 06 Nov	£3,590

**2016 DEPART TUE - RETURN FRI**

05 Apr - 29 Apr	£3,890	16 Aug - 09 Sep	£4,190
26 Apr - 20 May	£3,890	06 Sep - 30 Sep	£3,990
10 May - 03 Jun	£3,890	20 Sep - 14 Oct	£3,990
24 May - 17 Jun	£3,890	11 Oct - 04 Nov	£3,890

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £2,950 (Beijing - Kunming)
  - Single room from £760
  - Tipping paid locally US\$125

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Stopover in Hong Kong & Macau 4 nights from £500pp**

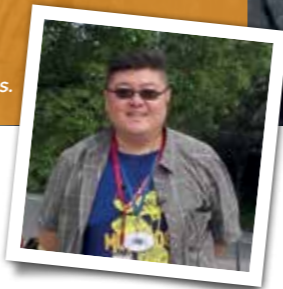
Combine the lively and sophisticated city of Hong Kong with glittering Macau, a former Portuguese colony, where Mediterranean influences and Las Vegas-esque glitz collide.

See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: JERRY**

The Grand tour of China misses nothing. It covers all of China's most famous and magnificent spots.



▲ TERRACOTTA WARRIORS, XIAN

# Grand Tour of China

This wide-ranging tour has China's top destinations covered, with time to soak up the sights. Whether you are looking for history, character and culture, the modern and marvellous, or a straight-up combination of the two, then this is the itinerary for you

- Pandas, the Wall and Warriors
- The Yangtze and Li Rivers
- Old world China in Dali
- Cosmopolitan Shanghai

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Days 3-4: Beijing and The Great Wall**

Visit Tiannamen Square and explore the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City where you will find a complex full of imperial treasures. This evening sit down to a traditional dinner of Peking Duck. The next morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate its sheer magnificence. Jade has been long cherished by the Chinese – at the Jade Museum you can understand and appreciate the delicate process of carving the stone and buy a piece if you wish. Finally savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace. In the evening enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show.

■ **Day 5: Temple of Heaven**

Browse the bustling markets and soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. Board an overnight train to Xian.

■ **Days 6-7: Terracotta Warriors**

Arrive in Xian and enjoy a delightful visit to the Little Wild Goose Pagoda and the Shaanxi Museum before wandering around the narrow alleys of the Muslim Quarter. Tonight feast on traditional Shui Jiao dumplings before a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing. The next day, view the enigmatic ranks of warriors that make up the Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and buy a souvenir warrior to take home. Later stroll on Xian's beautifully preserved 14th century city walls.

■ **Day 8: Fly to Wuhan**

Fly to Wuhan and transfer to Yichang to board your Yangtze River Cruise vessel.

■ **Days 9-11: Yangtze River Cruise**

The Three Gorges Dam may be an impressive feat of engineering but as you cruise upstream nature takes over, revealing some of world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. Over the next three days prepare for one breathtaking panorama after another. Take a side trip to the attractive Goddess or Shennong Stream and enjoy shore excursions to the Ghost City of Fengdu or Shibaozhai.

■ **Day 12: Drive to Chengdu**

Disembark and explore old Ciqikou, whose narrow streets are perfect for a stroll to admire the traditional architecture. Transfer to Chengdu.

■ **Day 13: Pandas**

Visit Chengdu's famous Panda Centre to see these celebrated bears in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Fly to the pleasant city of Kunming and tuck in to the local Across the Bridge noodles for dinner.

■ **Day 14: Stone Forest**

Explore the fascinating formations of the picturesque Stone Forest.



▲ FISHERMAN, YANGSHUO



▲ PANDA CONSERVATION CENTRE, CHENGDU

■ **Days 15-16: Enchanting Dali**

Dali offers a peek of the China of times-gone-by. On your first day visit the Three Pagodas, whilst the next day explore the old quarter and pop over to Xizhou village to browse around the local market. There will also be a cruise on Erhai Lake.

■ **Day 17: Fly to Guilin**

Transfer back to Kunming and fly to the attractive city of Guilin.

■ **Days 18-19: Li River and Yangshuo**

Take a relaxed cruise along the Li River to charming Yangshuo. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged karst peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalo and local fishermen. Yangshuo itself sits amongst paddy fields and dramatic karsts – spend the morning exploring. This afternoon is at leisure. There are many activities available including cycling, rafting and walking if you wish. In the evening see the famous cormorant fishermen.

■ **Day 20: Fly to Hangzhou**

Drive back to Guilin and enjoy a visit to the Reed Flute Cave where you can admire colourful stalactites and stalagmites. Fly to Hangzhou.

■ **Days 21-22: Discover Hangzhou**

Spend a morning wandering around the Temple of Inspired Seclusion and visit the Six Harmonies Pagoda before cruising on West Lake, admiring the gardens, pagodas and old bridges on its shores. The next day wander around a local market and visit a tea plantation before transferring to Suzhou.

■ **Day 23: Suzhou's Gardens**

Suzhou's centre has managed to retain a sense of quaint charm. Renowned for its gardens, visit two of the finest, the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Master of the Nets Garden, both typical of the Chinese appreciation of balance and harmony. Cruise on the thousand-year-old Grand Canal and visit a local silk mill.

■ **Day 24: Travel to Shanghai**

Travel to Shanghai. Discover the 1920s architectural styling of Xintiandi before enjoying a dinner of delicious Shanghai cuisine.

■ **Day 25: Explore Shanghai**

Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Today's explorations include the traditional Yu Gardens and the atmospheric alleys of the old town. Admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund before enjoying the 1920s architectural styling of the Xintiandi area. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise.

■ **Day 26: Fly Shanghai to UK**

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

**CLASSIC TOUR**

26 Days from

Per person **£3,490**

Fully inclusive from UK

Moderate

**2015 DEPART THU - RETURN MON**

12 Mar - 06 Apr	£3,490	27 Aug - 21 Sep	£3,790
19 Mar - 13 Apr	£3,590	03 Sep - 28 Sep	£3,790
02 Apr - 27 Apr	£3,690	06 Sep - 01 Oct*	£3,790
09 Apr - 04 May	£3,690	10 Sep - 05 Oct	£3,790
16 Apr - 11 May	£3,690	13 Sep - 08 Oct*	£3,790
23 Apr - 18 May	£3,690	17 Sep - 12 Oct	£3,790
07 May - 01 Jun	£3,690	20 Sep - 15 Oct	£3,790
14 May - 08 Jun	£3,690	24 Sep - 19 Oct	£3,790
21 May - 15 Jun	£3,690	08 Oct - 02 Nov	£3,790
11 Jun - 06 Jul	£3,590	11 Oct - 05 Nov*	£3,790
09 Jul - 03 Aug	£3,590	15 Oct - 09 Nov	£3,690
06 Aug - 31 Aug	£3,990	29 Oct - 23 Nov	£3,490
20 Aug - 14 Sep	£3,790		

**2016 DEPART THU - RETURN MON**

10 Mar - 04 Apr	£3,690	25 Aug - 19 Sep	£3,990
17 Mar - 11 Apr	£3,790	01 Sep - 26 Sep	£3,990
31 Mar - 25 Apr	£3,890	04 Sep - 29 Sep*	£3,990
07 Apr - 02 May	£3,890	08 Sep - 03 Oct	£3,990
14 Apr - 09 May	£3,890	11 Sep - 06 Oct*	£3,990
21 Apr - 16 May	£3,890	15 Sep - 10 Oct	£3,990
05 May - 30 May	£3,890	18 Sep - 13 Oct*	£3,990
12 May - 06 Jun	£3,890	22 Sep - 17 Oct	£3,990
19 May - 13 Jun	£3,890	06 Oct - 31 Oct	£3,990
09 Jun - 04 Jul	£3,790	09 Oct - 03 Nov*	£3,990
07 Jul - 01 Aug	£3,790	13 Oct - 07 Nov	£3,890
04 Aug - 29 Aug	£4,190	27 Oct - 21 Nov	£3,690
18 Aug - 12 Sep	£3,990		

\* Days of the week different to those stated

**Flight and supplement information**

**Based on London Heathrow departures**

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,960 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £740
- Tipping paid locally US\$125

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders



**Stopover in Hong Kong**  
3 nights from **£290pp**

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious.

See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.

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# Off the Beaten Track

Delve further into China to discover wild and varied landscapes, fascinating history, and culture deeply rooted in tradition.

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**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: JAY**

Sichuan is home to the rich natural scenery of China and home to the lovely panda.



▲ HUANGLONG POOLS

# Sichuan Explorer

Sichuan differs markedly from the rest of China, with differing attitudes, cuisine and spectacular landscapes of forest and mountain. Richly endowed with natural and cultural wonders, touring this magnificent province never fails to steal your breath away

- Dazu's rock carvings
- Mount Emei and the Grand Buddha
- Adorable pandas
- Spectacular Nine Villages Valley

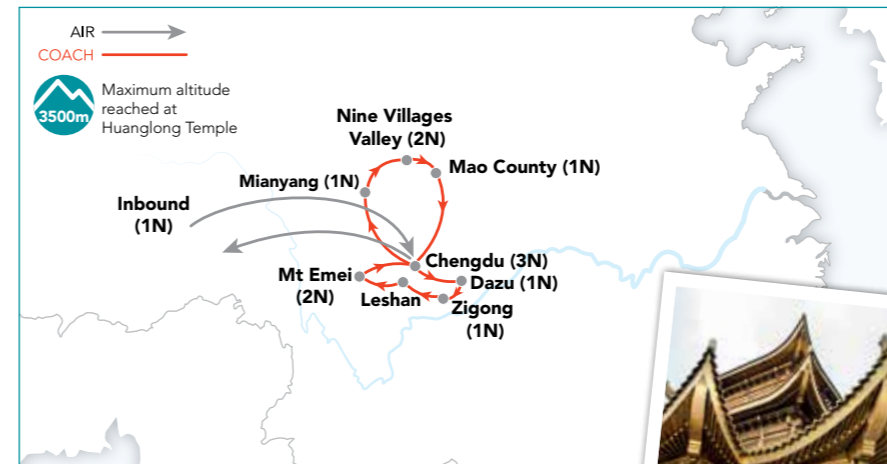
**■ Days 1-2: Fly to Chengdu**  
Fly overnight to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

**■ Day 3: Beishan Frescoes**  
The city of Dazu is surrounded by remarkable rock carvings, around 50,000 in total, dating from the 7th to the 13th centuries. These exceptional UNESCO World Heritage-listed carvings are both secular and religious with many influenced by Buddhist, Confucian and Taoist beliefs. Visit the Beishan Frescoes, a 500 metre stretch of carvings hewn directly into the limestone cliffs. The remains of the original paint gives an idea of how vibrant they once were.

**■ Day 4: Baoding Stone Carvings**  
At Baodingshan, or Treasured Summit Hill, scenes of everyday life and Buddhist teachings are richly illustrated, hugging the hillside in a horseshoe formation. This is the most extensive and impressive of all the 75 sites around Dazu. Drive to Zigong for a visit to the Dinosaur Museum home to one of the world's best collection of dinosaur skeletons. Zigong thrived for centuries on its industry of salt extraction by pumping water into the ground and collecting brine. You'll visit the elaborate Salt Museum.

**■ Day 5: Leshan Grand Buddha**  
Travel to Leshan to visit the Grand Buddha. The 71-metre Buddha, the world's largest and UNESCO World Heritage-listed, is carved into a hillside overlooking the confluence of the Dadu and Min Rivers. Completed in the year 803, it is said that the Buddha's presence has calmed the turbulent waters of the river. A short boat trip will give an even better perspective. Continue to Mount Emei.

**■ Day 6: Mount Emei**  
Mount Emei is the cradle of the Buddhist religion in China with the first temple built here, on its peak, in the 1st century. Pilgrims and tourists mix amongst the lush vegetation and inconspicuous old temples, all admiring the striking and diverse natural beauty of the mountain and its setting. Spend the day soaking up the ambience and exploring. If the weather is right the summit offers extraordinary views over the river below.



▲ NINE VILLAGES VALLEY

**■ Day 7: Drive to Chengdu**  
Return to Chengdu. On arrival tuck into a dinner of traditional Sichuan cuisine.

**■ Day 8: Pandas**  
A visit to Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre allows you to see and learn about China's celebrated bears. See them up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat as they chomp through piles of bamboo. A look around the informative museum gives an overview of the Reserve's breeding programme. Pop into the Sanxingdui Museum, home to many cultural relics including those found at the Sanxingdui archaeological site. Visit a lovely bamboo park before continuing on to Mianyang.

**■ Days 9-10: Nine Villages Valley**  
A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire lakes, abundant forests and rushing waterfalls, the Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou National Park) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. Named after the nine typical Tibetan settlements scattered through the valley, the park is a World Biosphere Reserve, full of endemic flora and 140 species of birds. Whilst the scenery transforms with the seasons it is always spectacular and you will spend time in the depths of it, revelling in your arresting surroundings.



▲ PANDA CONSERVATION CENTRE

**■ Day 11: Huanglong Pools**  
Hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposits, tumble gently down through the bright green forests of the Huanglong Valley. The whole area is studded with waterfalls and hot springs and, as it is relatively undiscovered, is a pleasure to explore. There is an option to take the chair lift up to Huanglong Temple at the head of the valley for excellent views over the whole valley, before we continue on to the delightful Mao County.

**■ Day 12: Drive to Chengdu**  
Return to Chengdu via the impressive Dujiangyan Irrigation System, in use since the 3rd century BC. Visit the Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum for a close up view of the skills necessary to create these beautiful, traditional items. You will have the opportunity to buy a unique, handmade piece.

**■ Day 13: Fly Chengdu to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

- 13 Days from
- Per person **£2,390**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate

2015 DEPART SUN - RETURN FRI			
19 Apr - 01 May	£2,390	06 Sep - 18 Sep	£2,590
10 May - 22 May	£2,390		
2016 DEPART SUN - RETURN FRI			
17 Apr - 29 Apr	£2,590	04 Sep - 16 Sep	£2,790
08 May - 20 May	£2,590		

**Flight and supplement information**

**Based on London Heathrow departures**

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £1,830 (Chengdu - Chengdu)
- Single room from £540
- Tipping paid locally US\$63

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**  
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something more independent and individual?
  - Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?
- Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Stopover in Hong Kong**  
3 nights from £290pp  
A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.





**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
GARY**

*I love introducing clients to one of my favourite places, the Nine Villages Valley. It's best known for its blue and green lakes, spectacular waterfalls, karst formations and unique wildlife.*



▲ NINE VILLAGES VALLEY

# China Splendour

Combine the wonders of the superb cities of Beijing, stylish Shanghai and ancient Xian, with the beauty of the Nine Villages Valley, a magnificent and delightfully undiscovered example of China's resplendent nature

- **Cosmopolitan Shanghai**
- **Spectacular Nine Villages Valley**
- **Leshan Grand Buddha**
- **Pandas, the Wall and Warriors**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**  
Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East'. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Discover Shanghai**  
Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Explore the fine arts and antiquities of the Shanghai Museum, visit the Yu Gardens and admire the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund. Follow the age-old silk production process at the Silk Museum, from the cultivation of silkworms up to creating the final piece. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise and enjoy a delicious meal of traditional Shanghai cuisine.

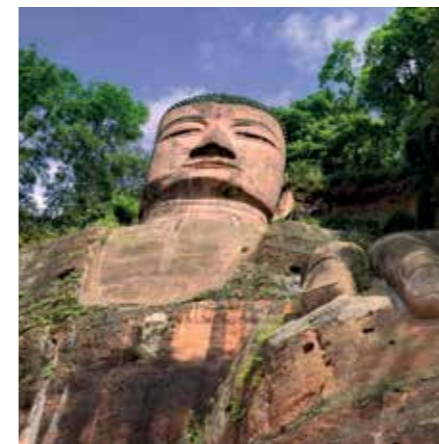
■ **Day 4: Fly to Beijing**  
Fly to Beijing, China's fascinating capital. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. This evening savour Beijing's best known delicacy – Peking Duck.

■ **Day 5: Imperial Beijing**  
Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City – a monument to China's dynastic past. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex full of imperial riches. An evening of Chinese acrobatics rounds off the day.

■ **Day 6: Great Wall**  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. An astounding feat of construction, there is no better way to appreciate both the sheer magnificence of the wall and the dramatic scenery that it crosses than a fascinating walk along it. Relax in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you explore traditional Chinese gardens and view exquisite architecture.

■ **Day 7: Ancient Xian**  
Fly to Xian, historic former capital. Visit the lovely Little Wild Goose Pagoda and admire the priceless treasures of the Shaanxi Museum. Tonight feast on traditional Shui Jiao dumplings before a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ **Day 8: Terracotta Warriors**  
After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life-like warriors. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and choose to purchase your own little warrior to take home. Later stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town, and soak up the atmosphere in the narrow alleyways of the Muslim Quarter.



▲ GRAND BUDDHA, LESHAN



▲ SHANGHAI

■ **Days 9-10: Nine Villages Valley**  
A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire lakes, abundant forests and rushing waterfalls, the Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou National Park) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. Named after the nine typical Tibetan settlements scattered throughout the valley, the park is a World Biosphere Reserve, full of endemic flora and 140 species of birds. Whilst the scenery transforms with the seasons it is always spectacular and you will spend time in the depths of it, revelling in your arresting surroundings.

■ **Day 11: Huanglong Pools**  
Hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposits, tumble gently down through the bright green forests of the Huanglong Valley. The whole area is studded with waterfalls and hot springs and, as it is relatively undiscovered, is a pleasure to explore. There is an option to take the chair lift up to Huanglong Temple at the head of the valley for excellent views over the whole valley. Later, fly to Chengdu.

■ **Day 12: Pandas**  
Visit Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre where you can get up close to China's celebrated bears, as they chomp through piles of bamboo, in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat.

■ **Day 13: Leshan Grand Buddha**  
Travel to Leshan to visit the Grand Buddha which, at 71 metres, is the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist monument and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A short boat trip on the river will give even better views of the statue. Returning to Chengdu, there will be a stop at the riverside village of Huanglongxi, where cobbled streets and rickety wooden buildings retain the charms of the Qing Dynasty.

■ **Day 14: Fly Chengdu to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

- 14 Days from
- Per person **£3,190**
- Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate

2015 DEPART WED - RETURN WED			
06 May - 20 May	£3,190	02 Sep - 16 Sep	£3,290
20 May - 03 Jun	£3,190	16 Sep - 30 Sep	£3,290
19 Aug - 02 Sep	£3,490	07 Oct - 21 Oct	£3,290

2016 DEPART WED - RETURN WED			
04 May - 18 May	£3,390	31 Aug - 14 Sep	£3,490
18 May - 01 Jun	£3,390	14 Sep - 28 Sep	£3,490
17 Aug - 31 Aug	£3,690	05 Oct - 19 Oct	£3,490

- Flight and supplement information**
- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £2,650 (Shanghai - Chengdu)
  - Single room from £480
  - Tipping paid locally US\$67

- Price includes:**
- International flights and current taxes
  - Domestic transportation
  - Accommodation
  - All meals
  - Touring with guides and entrance fees
  - Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**  
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something more independent and individual?
  - Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?
- Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Stopover in Abu Dhabi**  
3 nights from £240pp

A modern desert metropolis it may be, but Abu Dhabi has retained a distinctive Arab charm on its attractive streets and whilst thoroughly cosmopolitan, it is a palpably more relaxed city than neighbouring Dubai. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



▲ THE THREE PAGODAS, DALI

#### NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: NANCY

Yunnan, meaning 'south of the cloud mountains', is the most multi-cultural area of China. Encounter Naxi, Miao and Moshuo minorities who still practice old customs.



# Yunnan Adventure

The most wonderfully complex of all China's provinces, Yunnan boasts a rich diversity of people and landscapes. Explore verdant forest and dramatic mountains, archaeological sites and indigenous cultures on this varied adventure

- Relaxed capital Kunming
- Dramatic Tiger Leaping Gorge
- Ancient Jianshui
- Rice Terraces of Yuanyang

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Kunming**  
Fly to the relaxed city of Kunming. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Discover Dali**  
Fly to Dali, a charming town that offers a peek at the China of times-gone-by. Spend the rest of the day immersed in the local atmosphere of the fascinating old quarter and lively market.

■ **Day 4: The Three Pagodas**  
Flanked by the velvet green of the Changshan Mountains and Erhai Lake, the age-old Three Pagodas dominate the skyline over Dali. Set in a triangle, explore these ancient structures. Next, cruise on Erhai Lake and pop over to Xizhou village to browse in the local market. At the Yen Family House, an ancient courtyard home, there will be a demonstration of tie dying cloth in the style of the indigenous Bai people.

■ **Day 5: Explore Lijiang**  
Drive to Lijiang set in the foothills of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. The quintessential Chinese 'old town', Lijiang's old quarter is a jumble of cobbled streets, precarious wooden buildings and rustic stone bridges – in short, a delightful place to aimlessly wander. Visit the Black Dragon Pool, where there are wonderful views of the mountains, before mingling with traditionally dressed Naxi women in the bustling backstreet markets.

■ **Day 6: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**  
A magnificent mountain massif, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain incorporates several peaks, the tallest of which soars to 5,500 metres. Taking a chairlift, explore one of the gorgeous high meadows and enjoy the amazing vistas. On the way back to Lijiang, admire the fascinating Ming Dynasty frescoes at Baisha and visit the embroidery school.

■ **Day 7: Tiger Leaping Gorge**  
Over 3000 metres deep, Tiger Leaping Gorge, with its backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is one of China's most extraordinary sights. The whole area is spectacular – prepare for breathtaking views. Continue on to the Tibetan monastery town of Zhongdian, also known as Shangri-La.

■ **Day 8: Baishui Terraces**  
Spring water cascades picturesquely over the white limestone terraces of Baishui. Enjoy a relaxing day admiring the views.

■ **Day 9: Zhongdian**  
Tour Zhongdian old town, catch a glimpse of old Tibet in a traditional village and visit the magnificent Songzanlin Monastery and its many treasures at the foot of Foping Mountain.



▲ SONGZANLIN MONASTERY, YUNNAN



▲ RICE TERRACES OF YUANYANG

■ **Day 10: Fly to Kunming**  
Fly to Kunming and while away the afternoon at Green Lake Park.

■ **Day 11: Travel to Jianshui**  
Travel to Tonghai and visit the unique Xingmeng Mongolian village on the way, where the residents wear traditional costumes and keep old traditions alive. After a stroll around Tonghai market, continue to the antiquated town of Jianshui for an overnight stay and a visit to the Confucian temple, one of the largest in China.

■ **Day 12: Travel to Yuanyang**  
Visit the Zhang Garden before travelling further south to Yuanyang where you can explore the bustling market, full of fresh produce and locals in traditional, colourful costume.



■ **Day 13: Rice terraces of Yuanyang**  
Created by the Hani people over hundreds of years this wide, watery expanse is a spectacular sight to behold. Described as 'land sculpture' in China, the elements turn the terraces into pools of colour that reflect their mood, whether it's the reds and yellows of sunrise or the whites and greys of a mist settling over the valley. Hike through the terraces before visiting Qingkou Hani Ethnic Village.

■ **Day 14: Stone Forest**  
Journey to the Stone Forest, close to Kunming, and spend the night nearby.

■ **Day 15: Discover the Stone Forest**  
Meander through the formations of the UNESCO-listed Stone Forest, where towering limestone pillars stand treelike in a fascinating illusion of woodland. Return to Kunming where you can sample the local delicacy, Across the Bridge noodles, for dinner.

■ **Days 16-17: Fly Kunming to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the following day.

## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

- 17 Days from
- Per person **£2,890**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate

2015 DEPART SAT - RETURN MON		2016 DEPART SAT - RETURN MON	
07 Mar - 23 Mar	£2,890	31 Oct - 16 Nov	£2,990
11 Apr - 27 Apr	£2,990	14 Nov - 30 Nov	£2,990
05 Mar - 21 Mar	£2,990	29 Oct - 14 Nov	£3,190
09 Apr - 25 Apr	£3,090	12 Nov - 28 Nov	£3,190

**Flight and supplement information**  
Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,290 (Kunming - Kunming)
- Single room from £370
- Tipping paid locally US\$80

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Enjoy as a Private Tour

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



### Stopover in Dubai 2 nights from £220pp

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination full of futuristic architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig a little deeper and you'll find a rich culture centred on the labyrinthine old city.

See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
LINDA**

One of the highlights of this tour are the Tu Lou roundhouses. Local people used local materials to build these unique structures where a whole family or clan could live. They are a fascinating World Heritage site.



▲ JADE DRAGON SNOW MOUNTAIN, LIJIANG

# Southern Odyssey

As with the country as a whole, China's south has a rich and fascinating heritage, ripe for exploration. On this journey of discovery, immerse yourself in unique cultures, stand awe-struck at epic panoramas, and experience exciting cities

- Hakka roundhouses
- Yangshuo and the Li River
- Old world Lijiang and Dali
- Vibrant Hong Kong

**■ Days 1-2: Fly to Xiamen**  
Fly overnight to Xiamen. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.



**■ Day 3: Hakka roundhouses**  
Travel to Yongding, the heartland of the Hakka people. The exceptionally beautiful countryside is dotted with traditional Hakka roundhouses, unique communal earthen houses, which you will visit.

**■ Day 4: Gulangyu Island**  
Take the ferry over to Gulangyu for a restful day of exploration. This island has it all, from scenic landscapes and lovely beaches to narrow, winding lanes lined with a wide variety of architecture. Visits include the Hi Heaven complex, Shuzhuang Garden, Guanfu Classic Art Museum, Organ Museum, Music Hall and Sanya Church, plus enjoy a puppet show. There will also be time to see the 19th century Hulishan Cannon Fortress on the mainland.

**■ Day 5: Fly to Lijiang**  
Fly to the attractive city of Lijiang. The rest of the day will be at leisure.

**■ Day 6: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**  
A magnificent mountain massif, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain incorporates several peaks, the tallest of which soars to 5,500 metres. Taking a chairlift, explore one of the gorgeous high meadows and enjoy the amazing vistas. Admire the fascinating Ming Dynasty frescoes at Baisha and visit an embroidery school. Once a centre of silk embroidery, a skill that local Naxi women are well known for, this traditional art is being revived – watch the masters in action and even buy an exquisite piece for yourself.

**■ Day 7: Old China**  
The quintessential Chinese 'old town', Lijiang's old quarter is a jumble of cobbled streets, precarious wooden buildings and rustic stone bridges – in short, a delightful place to aimlessly wander. Visit the Black Dragon Pool, where there are wonderful views of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, before wandering the streets of the Old Quarter. Continue to Dali, a charming town that offers a peek at the China of times-gone-by. This afternoon pop over to Xizhou village to browse the local market and enjoy a Zhongcheng tie-dye demonstration.



▲ HAKKA ROUNDHOUSES AT YONGDING



▲ XIAMEN, GULANGYU ISLAND

**■ Day 8: Explore Dali**  
Flanked by the velvet green of the Changshan Mountains and Erhai Lake, the age-old Three Pagodas dominate the skyline over Dali. Explore these ancient structures before cruising on Erhai Lake. This evening enjoy the atmosphere of the old quarter and walk down lively Foreigners' Street.

**■ Day 9: Fly to Kunming**  
Fly to Kunming and this evening savour the local delicacy, Across the Bridge noodles.

**■ Day 10: Discover Stone Forest**  
Meander through the formations of the UNESCO-listed Stone Forest, where towering limestone pillars stand treelike in a fascinating illusion of woodland. Fly to Guilin.

**■ Day 11: Longji Rice Terraces**  
Travel to Longji to view the extensive rice terraces that cover the hillsides creating intricate patterns as they tumble down to the river below. By climbing the steps to their upper reaches, you can enjoy the incredible views.

**■ Day 12: Li River Cruise**  
Cruise along the Li River to charming Yangshuo. Around every bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged peaks loom over scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalo and local fishermen.

**■ Day 13: Yangshuo**  
Yangshuo sits amidst green paddy fields and dramatic limestone karsts – spend the morning exploring the countryside. Your afternoon is free but there are many activities available including cycling, rafting and walking. In the evening see the famous cormorant fishermen.

**■ Day 14: Fly to Hong Kong**  
Return to Guilin and visit the colourful formations of the Reed Flute Cave. Fly to Hong Kong and spend the rest of the day at leisure. (B)

**■ Day 15: Victoria Peak**  
Visit Victoria Peak for mesmerizing views over skyscrapers, bays and islands; the bustling Stanley Market; and Aberdeen Fishing Village, home to rows of old-fashioned junks and houseboats. (B)

**■ Day 16: Giant Buddha and Lantau**  
Take a ferry through Victoria Harbour to spend the day on the lovely island of Lantau. Rediscover wilderness as you visit Cheung Sha Beach, Tai O fishing village and the Giant Buddha. A ride in the Ngong Ping 360° cable-car gives fantastic panoramas over the island's coastline. Enjoy dinner atop Victoria Peak. (B,D)

**■ Day 17: Fly Hong Kong to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

- 17 Days from
- Per person **£3,890**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate

2015 DEPART THU - RETURN SAT			
16 Apr - 02 May	£3,890	22 Oct - 07 Nov	£3,990
2016 DEPART THU - RETURN SAT			
14 Apr - 30 Apr	£3,990	13 Oct - 29 Oct	£4,190

**Flight and supplement information**  
Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,310 (Xiamen - Hong Kong)
- Single room from £640
- Tipping paid locally US\$70 & HKD250

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals (excluding Hong Kong)
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Please note that to allow you the greatest degree of flexibility for your time in Hong Kong not all meals have been included.

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- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
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**Extend in Macau  
2 nights from £290pp**

Discover the former Portuguese colony of Macau, a glittering combination of Mediterranean and Asian influences, where conservative colonial heritage rubs shoulders with brash, Las Vegas-esque casinos. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: FRANK**

*This tour, covering the ancient capitals of northern China, gives a great insight and understanding into China's long history. You shouldn't miss the birthplace of martial arts!*



▲ HISTORIC PINGYAO

# Ancient China

With thousands of years of fascinatingly diverse history, China is one of the world's oldest and most monumental civilisations. Encounter millennia-old culture and religion with visits to some of China's greatest and most intriguing ancient sights

- Great Wall and Warriors
- Buddhism at Wutaishan
- The Hanging Temple
- Charming old Pingyao

**Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**

Arrive in Beijing, China's fascinating capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

**Day 3: Imperial Beijing**

Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City where you will find a complex full of imperial treasures. Take a rickshaw ride through the charming hutongs and in the evening sit down to enjoy the local delicacy, Peking Duck, followed by a performance of the Beijing Opera.

**Day 4: Great Wall**

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate its sheer magnificence. Jade has been long cherished by the Chinese – at the Jade Museum you can understand and appreciate the delicate process of carving the stone and buy a piece if you wish. Savour the idyll of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional Chinese gardens and see the exquisite architecture.

**Day 5: Temple of Heaven**

Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. Drift your way through Panjiayuan, Beijing's most extensive arts, crafts and antiques market.

**Day 6: Travel to Datong**

Travel by train to Datong, watching the rural splendour of China pass by your window. Arrive in time for a local dinner in this fascinating city.

**Day 7: The Hanging Temple**

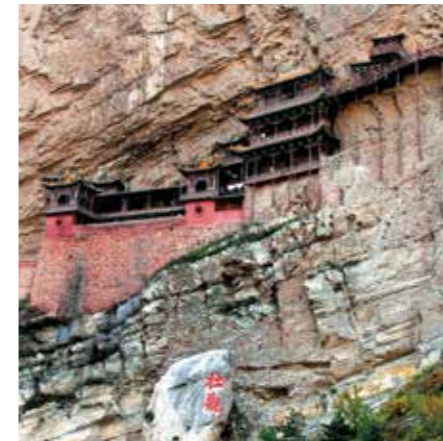
Grottoes carved from sandstone cliffs in the 5th and 6th centuries, Yungang Caves are replete with intricate Buddhist imagery. The 1400 year old, gravity-defying Hanging Temple seemingly floats 50 metres up the face of Jinxia Gorge. Travel on to Wutaishan.

**Day 8: Wutaishan**

One of China's four sacred Buddhist mountains, Wutai (Five Terraced Mountain), is a place of scenic magnificence. In Wutaishan's shadow an alpine valley shelters many important monasteries, temples and sculptures, some stretching back over 1000 years. Continue to Taiyuan and visit the Twin Pagoda Temple dating from the Ming Dynasty.

**Day 9: Taiyuan and Pingyao**

Enjoy the fascinating cultural relics of the Shanxi Provincial Museum and the beauty and tranquillity of Jinci Temple. Travel to Pingyao and visit the Shuanglin Temple, home to 2,000 colourful sculptures from the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing Dynasties.



▲ HANGING TEMPLE, DATONG



▲ SHAOLIN TEMPLE

**Day 10: Pingyao**

The characterful old town of Pingyao is considered the best ancient walled town in the country. Stroll along the cobbled streets to view the Zhou Dynasty (827-728BC) city walls and the Rishengchang Financial House Museum. There will also be time to see the Yamen, a former government building from the Qing Dynasty before taking the bullet train to the former imperial capital of Xian.

**Day 11: Terracotta Warriors**

After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of these life size warriors. This evening enjoy a delicious feast of Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

**Day 12: Discover Xian**

Visit the Little Wild Goose Pagoda before admiring the thousands of fascinating relics at the Shaanxi Museum. There will also be time to explore the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter.

**Day 13: Luoyang**

Board a bullet train from Xian to Luoyang, a city that was the capital for more than 13 dynasties. This afternoon visit the Longmen Grottoes which house tens of thousands of age-old statues and sculptures depicting Buddha and his disciples carved from the limestone cliffs of Xiangshan and Longmenshan.

**Day 14: Shaolin Temple**

Travel to the famous Shaolin Temple, best known for its association with martial arts, and walk through the Pagoda Forest, a collection of 228 pagodas of various styles built from the Tang through to Qing Dynasties. Witness a Kung Fu demonstration by the famous Shaolin Monks. Continue to Zhengzhou.

**Day 15: Yellow River**

Learn about the river basin called 'the birthplace of Chinese civilisation' at Zhengzhou's Yellow River Museum before heading to a lookout for panoramic views over the river itself. Fly to Shanghai.

**Day 16: Cosmopolitan Shanghai**

Shanghai is China's great metropolis, east and west colliding on streets lined with skyscrapers and old temples. Visit the peaceful Yu Gardens, the atmospheric old town and the excellent collections of the Shanghai Museum before admiring the colonial architecture on the Bund. In the evening take your seats for a fascinating Chinese acrobatic show.

**Day 17: Shanghai river cruise**

Wander through the Xintiandi area to admire the 1920s architectural styling. This evening, view the city from the Huangpu River on a scenic cruise. Taste the delicious, traditional Shanghai cuisine for dinner.

**Day 18: Fly Shanghai to UK**

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

- 18 Days from
- Per person **£2,690**
- Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate

2015 DEPART MON - RETURN THU			
30 Mar - 16 Apr	£2,690	31 Aug - 17 Sep	£2,790
27 Apr - 14 May	£2,690	14 Sep - 01 Oct	£2,790
11 May - 28 May	£2,690	12 Oct - 29 Oct	£2,690
25 May - 11 Jun	£2,690		

2016 DEPART MON - RETURN THU			
04 Apr - 21 Apr	£2,790	05 Sep - 22 Sep	£2,890
25 Apr - 12 May	£2,790	19 Sep - 06 Oct	£2,890
09 May - 26 May	£2,790	10 Oct - 27 Oct	£2,790
23 May - 09 Jun	£2,790		

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £2,160 (Beijing - Shanghai)
  - Single room from £440
  - Tipping paid locally US\$70

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

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- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something more independent and individual?
  - Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?
- Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Stopover in Doha**

3 nights from **£340pp**

Doha, the newest metropolitan player on the Persian Gulf, is a city on the verge of greatness. Perhaps more conservative than Abu Dhabi and Dubai but its exotic skyline, atmospheric souqs and pristine malls can rival both.

See pages 126-129.

Additional flight costs may apply.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
GUMP**

This tour focuses on China's beautiful natural wonders, such as Mt Huang, Nine Villages Valley and most impressive of all Zhangjiajie.



▲ THE AMAZING SCENERY OF ZHANGJIAJIE

# Dreams of Nature

Towering pinnacles swathed in mist, sky-skimming mountains and nature at its most verdant are just some of the wonders included on this scenic tour. Indulge your senses with China's most spectacular, mysterious and dramatic natural highlights

- **Inspirational Mt Huang**
- **Wulong's karst scenery**
- **Nine Villages Valley**
- **Turquoise Huanglong Pools**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**  
Fly overnight to the exuberant city of Shanghai, called 'the Paris of the East'. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Discover Shanghai**  
Shanghai is China's great metropolis, where east and west collide on streets lined with futuristic skyscrapers and 10th century temples. Visit the peaceful Yu Gardens and the atmospheric old town before admiring the magnificent colonial architecture with a stroll along the Bund. This evening view the city from the Huangpu River on a panoramic cruise, before sitting down for delicious local Shanghai cuisine.

■ **Day 4: Shanghai Museum**  
Explore the fine arts and antiquities of the Shanghai Museum and the 1920s architectural stylings of the Xintiandi area. Follow the age-old silk production process at the Silk Museum, from the cultivation of silkworms up to creating the final piece. There are also many gorgeous, handmade items for sale. Later that day fly to Tunxi.

■ **Days 5-6: Mt Huang**  
Much acclaimed, and an endless source of inspiration in Chinese art and literature, Mt Huang (Yellow Mountain) is an area of towering peaks, crowned by ancient trees whose green foliage contrasts starkly against grey granite and swirling mists. Take the cable car to the summit and spend the night here soaking up the views before returning to Tunxi at the foot of the mountain the following day.

■ **Days 7-8: Spectacular Zhangjiajie**  
Fly to Changsha, capital of Hunan province, continue by road to the breath-taking scenery of Zhangjiajie. A scenic area of over 3000 sandstone pillars, rising from misty folds of subtropical forest and cloaked in vibrant green vegetation, Zhangjiajie's striking beauty is unforgettable. Ravines and gorges, streams and waterfalls and a plethora of endangered plants and animal species complete this idyllic scene. Visit Huanglong Cave and cruise on Lake Baofeng.

■ **Day 9: Fly to Chongqing**  
Take a little more time to see the sights of this breath-taking area before boarding a late evening flight to Chongqing.

■ **Day 10: Historical Ciqikou**  
Spend the day seeing the sights of Chongqing including old Ciqikou, whose narrow streets are perfect for a stroll to admire the traditional architecture. Visit the tranquil Erlin Gardens and the General Stilwell Museum.



▲ MT HUANG

■ **Day 11: Black Mountain Valley**  
Visit Black Mountain Valley (Heishangou). Walk on the wooden paths which run along the side of the dramatic, narrow gorge, passing rushing streams, waterfalls and local flora and fauna as you go. Continue to Wulong.

■ **Days 12-13: Wulong**  
The Wulong area is well-known for its majestic karst landscapes – spend the next two days losing yourself in this dramatic scenery. Admire three natural bridges, high limestone arches which loom over a deep gorge and walk through the Longshuixia Fissure, a kilometre long deep and narrow valley formed by a collapsed cave. The next day, along with further explorations, visit Furong Cave, a karst cave high above the Furong River. Drive to Chongqing.



▲ NINE VILLAGES VALLEY

■ **Days 14-16: Nine Villages Valley**  
A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire lakes, abundant forests and rushing waterfalls, Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou National Park) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. Whilst the scenery transforms with the seasons it is always spectacular and you will spend two days in the depths of it, revelling in your arresting surroundings.

■ **Day 17: Huanglong Pools**  
Hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposits, tumble gently down through the bright green forests of the Huanglong Valley. The whole area is studded with waterfalls and hot springs, and, as it is relatively undiscovered, is a pleasure to explore. There is an option to take the cable car or walk up to Huanglong Temple at the head of the valley. Visit a Tibetan workshop and fly to Chengdu.

■ **Day 18: Pandas**  
Visit Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre where you can get up close to China's celebrated bears, as they chomp through piles of bamboo, in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Wander along ancient Jinli Street, see Wuhou Temple, and visit the fascinating Shu Brocade museum and purchase a piece if you wish. Sample the delicious Sichuan cuisine for dinner.

■ **Day 19: Fly Chengdu to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

- 19 Days from
- Per person **£3,590**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Active

2015 DEPART FRI - RETURN TUE	
22 May - 09 Jun	£3,590
28 Aug - 15 Sep	£3,790
2016 DEPART FRI - RETURN TUE	
20 May - 07 Jun	£3,790
26 Aug - 13 Sep	£3,990

- Flight and supplement information**
- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £3,040 (Shanghai - Chengdu)
  - Single room from £540
  - Tipping paid locally US\$98
- Price includes:**
- International flights and current taxes
  - Domestic transportation
  - Accommodation
  - All meals
  - Touring with guides and entrance fees
  - Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

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- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Stopover in Hong Kong & Macau**  
3 nights from **£500pp**

Combine the lively and sophisticated city of Hong Kong with glittering Macau, a former Portuguese colony, where Mediterranean influences and Las Vegas-esque glitz collide. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: HOFFMAN**

Explore the Silk Road, the oldest trading route from east to west, with opportunities to see the Taklamakan Desert and Kashgar's wonderful Sunday Bazaar.



▲ JIAYU FORTRESS

# Silk Road Explorer

Follow in the footsteps of intrepid adventurers by journeying along one of the world's most famous trading routes, the Silk Road. Beginning in ancient Xian, venture across this vast land to reach the fascinating outpost of Kashgar and its famous Sunday market

- Fascinating Jiayu Fortress
- Buddhist Mogao Grottoes
- Desert oasis Turpan
- Kashgar's legendary bazaar

**Days 1-2: Fly to Xian**

Fly overnight to Xian, the ancient former capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

**Day 3: Terracotta Warriors**

After their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since – spend the morning viewing their enigmatic ranks. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and buy a souvenir warrior to take home. Later, stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town. Enjoy a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing and a Shui Jiao dumpling dinner.

**Day 4: Explore Xian**

Enjoy a relaxed day admiring the treasures of the Shaanxi Museum and wandering around the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter. Also see the Little Wild Goose Pagoda. Board an overnight train to Lanzhou.

**Days 5-6: Explore Lanzhou**

Enjoy a moment of tranquillity at the hilltop Baita Temple and tuck into some delicious Lanzhou-style noodles made with hand-stretched dough. Cross Liujiaxia Lake by speed boat. The next day, head into the green hills around Liujiaxia to explore the extraordinary Thousand Buddha Caves of Bingling Temple and their wealth of Buddhist murals, statues and sculptures.

**Day 7: Journey to Xiahe**

Conquer the scenic Jishi Mountain Pass to arrive at Tibetan Xiahe.

**Day 8: Labrang Monastery**

Giving a taste of the mysteries of Tibet, Labrang Monastery is a fascinating maze of prayer wheels, chapels and chörtens. Take some time to reflect and explore before heading back to wander around Xiahe itself.

**Days 9-10: Great Wall at Jiayuguan**

Return to Lanzhou and board an overnight train for Jiayuguan. Seen as China's western gateway, Jiayuguan is the perfect place to get to grips with your Silk Road history. Visit the Jiayu Fortress and take a walk on the western extremes of the magnificent Great Wall for panoramic views over the starkly beautiful Gobi Desert.

**Day 11: City of Sands**

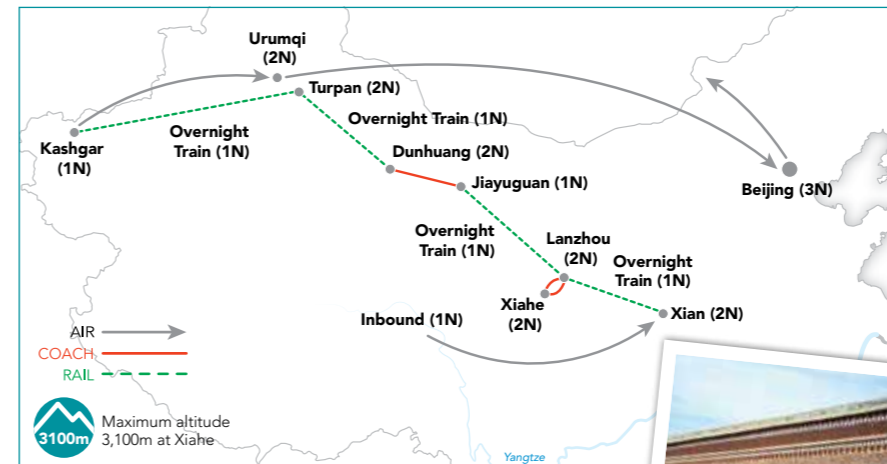
Drive to Dunhuang. Located on a major trade and cultural crossroads, Dunhuang, known as the 'City of Sands', sits in a verdant oasis on the edge of the Taklamakan Desert.

**Day 12: Mogao Grottoes**

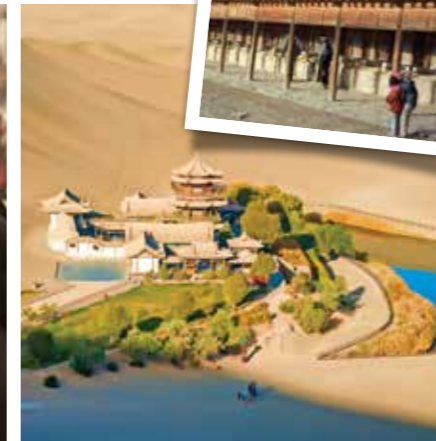
A system of temples and sanctuaries, the Mogao Grottoes exhibit wonderful examples of Buddhist paintings and statues that span thousands of years.

**Day 13: Singing Sand Dunes**

Visit Crescent Moon Spring, nestled amongst rolling sand dunes, and the famous Singing Sand Dunes, a phenomena produced by the wind blowing through the grains.



▲ KASHGAR



▲ CRESENT LAKE, DUNHUANG

**Days 14-15: Explore Turpan**

A legendary oasis set in a vast basin, Turpan is a lush green smudge in a barren landscape. An easy-going town, famed for its grapes, its pleasant streets are lined with lush vine trellises. Visit the ruins of ancient Jiaohe and the striking red sandstone Flaming Mountains. The next day, see elegant Emin Minaret before visiting a typical home in grape valley. Also learn about the fascinating Keraz irrigation canals.

**Day 16: Overnight train to Kashgar**

Our journey along the Silk Road continues on an overnight train to the remote city of Kashgar.

**Day 17: Explore Kashgar**

Its skyline punctured by minarets, Kashgar feels a million miles from China – in fact, it feels a million miles from anywhere! Although now a modern city, the sights and sounds of Kashgar's bazaar have remained unchanged for millennia, as it continues to be an integral trading post as in its Silk Road heyday. Today's visits include Abakh Hoja Tomb, Id Kah Mosque and the atmospheric alleyways around Id Kah Square.

**Day 18: Kashgar's Sunday Bazaar**

Dive headlong into the world's largest bazaar. Within this riot of textures, vivid colours and traditional dress, you can browse hundreds of stalls selling anything from spices and carpets to boots and blenders. Fly to Urumqi.

**Days 19-20: Discover Urumqi**

Escape to the tranquillity of Tian Chi (Heavenly Lake) formed in a crater atop Baekdu Mountain, where yurts nestle on its grassy banks. Enjoy local Uyghur lamb skewers for dinner. The following day explore the collections of the Xinjiang Museum which includes costumes, historical relics and ancient mummies. Fly to Beijing.

**Day 21: The Great Wall**

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate its sheer magnificence. Jade has been long cherished by the Chinese – at the Jade Museum you can understand and appreciate the delicate process of carving the stone and buy a piece if you wish. In the afternoon savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional Chinese gardens.

**Day 22: Imperial Beijing**

Heading to Beijing's symbolic heart, stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City where you'll find a complex full of imperial treasures. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. This evening, dine on Beijing's best known delicacy – Peking Duck.

**Day 23: Fly Beijing to UK**

Fly to the UK arriving the same or following day.

**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

23 Days from

Per person **£3,490**

✓ Fully inclusive from UK

➡ Active

**2015 DEPART THU - RETURN FRI**

23 Apr - 15 May	£3,490	10 Sep - 02 Oct	£3,590
07 May - 29 May	£3,490	08 Oct - 30 Oct	£3,590

**2016 DEPART THU - RETURN FRI**

21 Apr - 13 May	£3,690	08 Sep - 30 Sep	£3,790
05 May - 27 May	£3,690	06 Oct - 28 Oct	£3,790

**Flight and supplement information**

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,910 (Xian - Beijing)
- Single room from £520
- Tipping paid locally US\$98

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary



- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

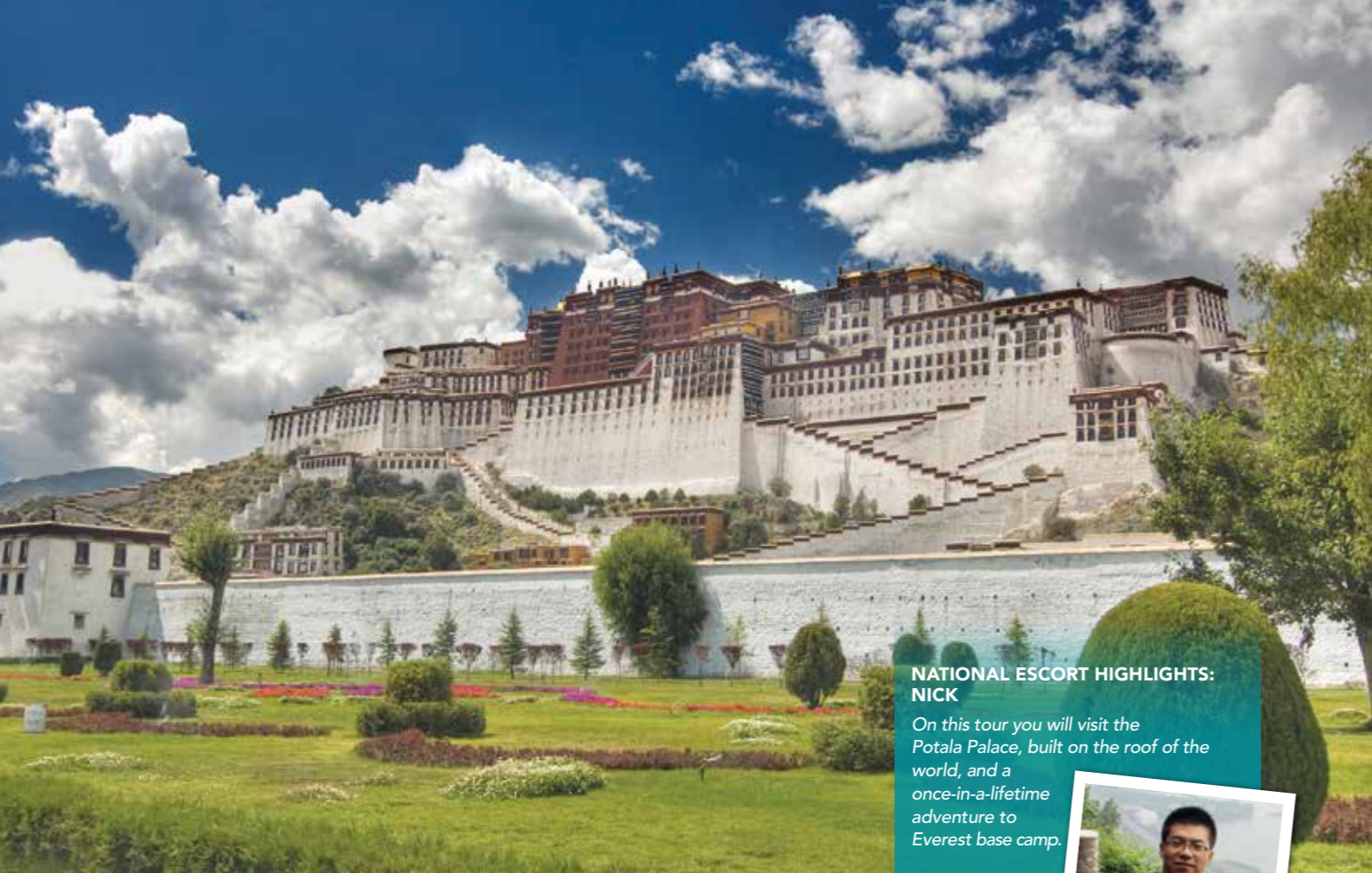
Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Stopover in Hong Kong**  
3 nights from £290pp

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious.

See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: NICK**

On this tour you will visit the Potala Palace, built on the roof of the world, and a once-in-a-lifetime adventure to Everest base camp.



▲ POTALA PALACE IN LHASA

# Tibetan Wonders

Journey through the diverse landscapes of Yunnan Province up to 'the roof of the world' where you will experience the many wonders of Tibet. Admire ancient monasteries and Himalayan vistas before taking in the ultimate view of Everest

- Old-world Dali and Lijiang
- Tiger Leaping Gorge
- Unforgettable Lhasa
- Mt Everest base camp

**■ Days 1-2: Fly to Kunming**  
Fly overnight to the relaxed city of Kunming, 'the city of Eternal Spring'. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

**■ Day 3: Discover the Stone Forest**  
Meander through the formations of the UNESCO-listed Stone Forest, where towering limestone pillars stand tree-like in a fascinating illusion of petrified woodland.

**■ Days 4-5: Enchanting Dali**  
Fly to Dali, a charming town that offers a peek at the China of times-gone-by. Spend the afternoon immersed in the local atmosphere of the fascinating old quarter and lively market. The next day, visit the age-old Three Pagodas which dominates the skyline over the town. Then take a cruise on Erhai Lake where you will see a traditional tie dye demonstration.

**■ Day 6: Lijiang**  
Drive to Lijiang. The quintessential Chinese 'old town', Lijiang's old quarter is a jumble of cobbled streets, precarious wooden buildings and rustic stone bridges – in short, a delightful place to aimlessly wander. Visit the Black Dragon Pool before mingling with traditionally-dressed Naxi women in the bustling backstreet markets.

**■ Day 7: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**  
A magnificent mountain massif, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain soars to 5,500 metres. Taking a chairlift, explore one of the gorgeous high meadows and enjoy the amazing vistas. Admire the fascinating Ming Dynasty frescoes at Baisha and see the intricate creations of the embroidery school.

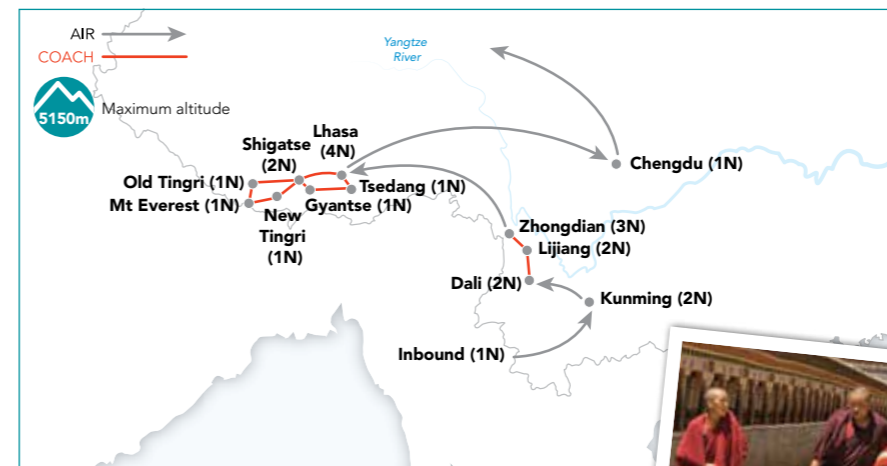
**■ Day 8: Tiger Leaping Gorge**  
Over 3,000-metres deep, Tiger Leaping Gorge, with its backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is one of China's most extraordinary sights. Continue on to the Tibetan monastery town of Zhongdian, also known as Shangri-La.

**■ Day 9: Baishui Terraces**  
Spring water cascades picturesquely over the white limestone terraces of Baishui. Enjoy a relaxed day admiring the views.

**■ Day 10: Tibetan Zhongdian**  
Visit the magnificent Songzanlin Monastery and its many treasures, tour Zhongdian old town and catch a glimpse of old Tibet in a traditional village.

**■ Day 11: Fly to Lhasa**  
Fly to Lhasa, the heart and soul of Tibet. The afternoon is free to relax and acclimatise to the altitude.

**■ Day 12: Jokhang Temple and Barkhor**  
Lhasa is a quickly growing modern city but among the narrow, old streets you'll feel a million miles from the stresses and strains of the modern world. Wander around the Barkhor to see traditionally dressed locals, stalls of religious trinkets and prostrating pilgrims. Inside the Jokhang Temple, the devotion is palpable as queues of people worship in the flickering light of yak butter candles. There will also be a visit to Sera Monastery, a renowned seat of Buddhist learning.



▲ MT EVEREST

**■ Day 13: Potala Palace**  
The Potala Palace is an architectural wonder towering over the city from its seat on Marpo Ri (Red Mountain). The Potala, the winter palace of the Dalai Lama, houses thousands of rooms filled with old treasures from intricate shrines to beautiful frescoes. This afternoon, explore Norbulingka, the summer residence of the Dalai Lama, set in parkland just outside the city, before visiting a local Tibetan arts and crafts shop. Enjoy a traditional Tibetan dinner and a dance performance in the evening.

**■ Days 14-15: Shigatse**  
Travel across Tibet's stark plains to Shigatse. Dominated by a fort reminiscent of the Potala, Shigatse is Tibet's second city and the traditional home of the Panchen Lama. The rest of the day is spent exploring. The next day continue by road to New Tingri admiring the awe-inspiring views of the mighty Himalayas as we go.

**■ Day 16: Everest Base Camp**  
Traverse some of the world's most incredible scenery, with the Himalayas dominating the horizon, as we make our way to base camp. Here, situated under the gaze of Everest's north face, the views of the world's highest peak are unsurpassed. Visit Rongbok Monastery, draped in colourful prayer flags, and stay overnight in the township.

**■ Day 17: Everest sunrise**  
Rise early to see a glorious sunrise over Everest before driving to Old Tingri.



▲ JOKHANG TEMPLE

**■ Days 18-19: Shigatse and Gyantse**  
Return to Shigatse. The next day visit Tashilhunpo Monastery, a hilltop complex that is the seat of the Panchen Lama, before continuing to the pleasant town of Gyantse to visit Pelkor Monastery.

**■ Day 20: Gyantse Kumbum**  
Visit the Gyantse Kumbum. This fascinating monastery is home to the largest chorten in Tibet – climb it for a succession of colourful mural-filled chapels and wonderful views. Drive to Tsedang, called the 'cradle of Tibetan civilisation'.

**■ Day 21: Yumbulhakang Palace**  
Perched on a hill over the Yarlung River, legend says that the ancient Yumbulhakang Palace was the first building in Tibet and the palace of the first Tibetan king. Continue on to the Chang Chun Monastery and the King's Tombs en route to Lhasa.

**■ Day 22: Pandas**  
Fly to Chengdu. Visit Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre where you can get up close to China's celebrated bears in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Visit the fascinating Shu Brocade factory. Tonight, sample delicious Sichuan cuisine for dinner.

**■ Day 23: Fly Chengdu to UK**  
Fly to the UK arriving the same or following day.

**OFF THE BEATEN TRACK**

- 23 Days from
- Per person **£3,990**
- Fully inclusive from UK
- Active

2015 DEPART SAT - RETURN SUN	
02 May - 24 May	£3,990
16 May - 07 Jun	£3,990

2016 DEPART SAT - RETURN SUN	
30 Apr - 22 May	£4,190
14 May - 05 Jun	£4,190

**Flight and supplement information**  
Based on London Heathrow departures  
 ■ Flight upgrades available on request  
 ■ Land only from £3,410 (Kunming - Chengdu)  
 ■ Single room from £560  
 ■ Tipping paid locally US\$98

**Price includes:**  
 ■ International flights and current taxes  
 ■ Domestic transportation  
 ■ Accommodation  
 ■ All meals  
 ■ Touring with guides and entrance fees  
 ■ Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders  
 Tibet permit conditions are subject to change.

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**  
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- Want to travel on a different date?
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3 nights from £290pp  
A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.

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# The Exclusive Collection

Designed for the most discerning travellers, the Exclusive Collection brings China to life.

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## The Exclusive Collection includes:

- 5★ hotels throughout
  - Deluxe cruising
  - Sumptuous dining
  - Exclusive sightseeing
  - Champagne moments
  - Unique experiences
  - Small group sizes
  - UK chauffeur transfers
-



# Exclusive Experiences

All of our Exclusive Collection tours include a range of unique experiences, designed to immerse you in some of the world's most iconic locations and to give you a greater insight into Chinese culture and history

## Get Involved



### Chinese Calligraphy

Calligraphy has evolved throughout China's history to become a symbolic art form of the oriental world, the perfect example of the importance of balance and harmony in eastern cultures. A skill for the learned and elegant scholar, in this class you will use simple tools and techniques to enable you to create basic but beautiful characters.



### Dumpling Demonstration

The dumpling is a Chinese institution, a traditional delicacy that is associated with wealth, family and happiness. In Xian the preparation of these bite-size morsels has been perfected into an art form with their delicate wrappers crafted to represent their filling. In your class you can watch an expert at work and create your very own dumplings.



### Tai Chi with a Master

Every morning in the fresh dawn light you'll find gatherings of locals in parks and gardens across China performing the graceful, flowing movements of Tai Chi. You'll be joined by a Tai Chi master in the parkland of the Temple of Heaven where you'll learn about its traditional philosophies as you are guided through the correct principles of this ancient martial art.

## Face to Face with History



### Forbidden City Treasure Hall

The Treasure Hall is the hidden gem of the Forbidden City and, as the name suggests, holds a magnificent collection of imperial artefacts. Wander through the intimate glittering galleries to admire the everyday trappings of royal life, from elaborate jewellery and robes to tea services and Jade ornaments.



### Xian's Grand Mosque

Islam was introduced to China by the Arabic traders that plied the Silk Road and it was in Xian that the first mosque was built. Wander landscaped gardens that offer an escape from the hustle and bustle of the world outside and admire the unique architecture of a mosque that is Chinese in style but intricately decorated with Islamic art.



### Hanyangling Mausoleum

The burial place of Emperor Jing, the mausoleum offers a vastly different archaeological experience to the famous Terracotta Warriors. Descend below ground to see the intricately crafted half-sized figures of warriors, women and animals in situ, surrounded by the artefacts of everyday life from the Western Han Dynasty.

## Added Expertise



### Panda Expertise

On your visit to the atmospheric Panda Base in Chengdu, one of the resident panda experts will accompany you and explain more about the life of these charismatic creatures. You'll gain a deep insight into their feeding patterns, unusual habits and the challenges faced by the breeding programme.

### Archaeology Expert

Nothing compares to the first time you enter the cavernous building that shelters the Terracotta Warriors, as the expansive scene unfolds before you with shafts of sunlight illuminating particular figures. You will gain a deep insight into the recent and ancient history of the Warriors as you are guided by a member of the excavation team who'll be able to share unique insights and anecdotes.



## Cultural Shows



### Face Changing Show

Face Changing, or Bian Lian, is an ancient Chinese dramatic art that is an integral part of traditional Sichuan Opera. Sit back in VIP seats and watch colourfully costumed artists perform to dramatic music. They switch from one vivid face to another at lightning speed with a movement of the head or a swipe of a fan, using techniques that have long been regarded as a national secret.

### Impression Sanjie Liu

Enjoy an enchanting light spectacular from VIP seats which evocatively uses Yangshuo's limestone karst landscapes as the theatre and the Li River as the stage. Created by Zhang Yi Mou, the director of the impressive opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics, expect to be dazzled by a love story that uses both nature and hundreds of local performers to great effect.

## Indulge

### Shanghai Cocktails

For our tours which end in Shanghai, we have laid on a farewell cocktail experience as sophisticated and sleek as the city itself. M on the Bund offers unparalleled views of sparkling Pudong at night. Enjoy a stylish farewell drink in the bar and toast your new memories, experiences and friendships.



### Champagne on the Wall

Our Exclusive Tours feature a visit to the lesser-known Huanghuacheng section of the Great Wall. Not only will you be able to see the fabled Great Wall with fewer people around, but your visit will be made even more unforgettable with a champagne toast – a decadent way to start your tour!



# Luxury Hotels

The hotels we use on our Exclusive Collection Tours have been hand-picked to compliment the high quality of experiences and touring, meaning you will be staying in 5-star luxury throughout

## Our Hotels



### Shangri-La, Beijing

Providing a peaceful sanctuary away from Beijing's hustle and bustle, the Shangri-La boasts relaxing rooms with elegant décor and airy ambience. Facilities include a decadent spa and soothing landscaped gardens in which to unwind. Eight dining options offering cuisine from around the world will leave you spoilt for choice.



### Ritz-Carlton Chengdu

Overlooking Tianfu Square, the Ritz-Carlton offers a luxury experience in the heart of Chengdu. With modern, airy bedrooms and marble bathrooms, the hotel is the epitome of the Ritz brand. Breakfast is taken in the well-designed Spices Restaurant, with open cooking stations and a myriad of cuisines on offer.



### Shangri-La, Xian

The Shangri-La is at the pinnacle of Xian's accommodation options. Find relaxation in the stylishly decorated rooms with luxury marble bathrooms where floor to ceiling windows give fantastic views over the city. Relish the acclaimed five-star service and start the day with a sumptuous breakfast feast fit for an emperor.



### Sheraton Guilin

This stunning hotel is as beautiful as the landscape it calls home. All of the rooms have been recently renovated, and feature high speed Internet and Sheraton's famously comfortable bed with a deluxe duvet, and a custom mattress. Facilities include an outdoor swimming pool, gym and sauna and massage facilities.



### Shanghai Grand Central

The Shanghai Grand Central is the embodiment of Chinese opulence. The spacious bedrooms are well-appointed and feature spacious, marble bathrooms. Located next to the Bund and Nanjing Road, this hotel's enviable location is perfect for exploring Shanghai.



### Yangshuo Resort

Nestled between the iconic limestone karsts of Yangshuo, the Yangshuo Resort is a paradise sanctuary in the Chinese countryside. Take time to enjoy the refreshing swimming pool, take lunch by the river or explore the surroundings. Wake up to an expansive bedroom with lush views from your personal balcony.

# Deluxe Cruise Ships

A journey along the Yangtze River is an experience like no other in China – the destination being not a single place but a rolling ribbon of dramatic gorges, reposeful countryside and man-made wonders.

## Victoria Sophia

As the only cruise ship operating the six night route from Chongqing to Shanghai, a journey on the Victoria Sophia offers the most relaxing and unique trip on the Yangtze. Well-appointed rooms on the bridge deck include private balconies with superb views.

Relax as the Victoria Sophia passes through the Yangtze's breathtaking gorges. Additionally on the longer cruise to Shanghai, this itinerary visits historical Nanjing as well as beautiful Jiuhuashan or Huangshan – the mist-wreathed mountains which have inspired Chinese artists for centuries.

Victoria Sophia is featured on our six-night voyage from Chongqing to Shanghai on the Spirit of the Yangtze tour.

**Featured especially for our Exclusive Collection, the VIP package on the Victoria Sophia allows the use of complimentary wi-fi in the lounge areas, an exclusive à la carte dining, complimentary drinks during happy hour, and many other benefits.**

## President Number 8

Making her maiden voyage on the Yangtze River in 2013, the President Number 8 is one of the youngest ships in China. This ship features spacious deluxe cabins, each with a private balcony on the 6th floor. These sumptuous cabins offer excellent views of the passing scenery. Take your meals in the à la carte restaurant, enjoy free pre-dinner drinks, and VIP seats during evening entertainment.

Observe the scenery of the Yangtze from the sun deck, venture off the ship on one of the many shore excursions, take a dip in the heated indoor pool, try dawn Tai Chi or watch a demonstration of Chinese painting. The well appointed President Number 8 has plenty of activities on offer; or if you prefer, just relax on your balcony.

President Number 8 is featured on our three-night voyages from Chongqing to Yichang on the Legends of China or Exquisite China tours.





**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: DING**

*I always enjoy visiting the pandas and being shown around the Panda Centre by an expert means you get to learn all about their habits and behaviours.*



▲ PANDA CONSERVATION CENTRE, CHENGDU

# The Best of China NEW

Palaces, pandas and tea plantations are just some of the impressive highlights of this deluxe adventure. Relax in five-star hotels and savour one-of-a-kind experiences as you travel from Beijing through Xian to visit Chengdu's resident bears

- Champagne on the Great Wall
- Exclusive tea plantation tour
- Iconic dining experiences
- Expert panda guide

**Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**

Arrive at the airport by chauffeured transfer and fly overnight to Beijing. On arrival you will be accompanied by one of our experienced escorts to the hotel.

**Day 3: Explore Imperial Beijing**

Begin the day like many locals with gentle exercise, as you partake in a private Tai Chi lesson with a master in the Temple of Heaven park. Cross vast Tiananmen Square to the Forbidden City – a monument to a dynastic past, the palace served as the home of emperors for 500 years. Your visit includes entrance to the intimate Treasure Hall, a glittering gallery showcasing the everyday trappings of royal life. Visit a cloisonné workshop to witness the elaborate process of creating beautiful, enamelled objects with pieces available to buy. Dine on Peking Duck at the excellent Quanjude restaurant and enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show. (B,L,D)

**Day 4: Champagne on the Great Wall**

From the Gobi Desert to the Bohai Sea the Great Wall stretches thousands of miles. In Beijing take a rickshaw ride through the lesser-known Huanghuacheng section, stopping at the ideal spot to enjoy a glass of champagne whilst admiring the views of lakes and craggy peaks. Back in Beijing take a rickshaw ride through the hutongs where you'll stop for a lesson in calligraphy with a learned scholar. Enjoy a free evening at lively Houhai Lake. (B,L)

**Day 5: Traditional Shaanxi Dumplings**

Fly to Xian. Walk on the 14th century walls for an excellent overview of the city before studying with local dumpling chefs to learn the art of creating these cultural delicacies. In Xian the preparation of these bite-size morsels has been perfected into an art form with their delicate wrappers crafted to represent their filling. Dine on the results before watching a Tang Dynasty dance performance. (B,L,D)

**Day 6: The Terracotta Warriors**

Fortuitously found by local farmers digging a well, the Terracotta Warriors are one of the world's most famous archaeological discoveries. View the enigmatic ranks in the company of an archaeologist who works at the site and who will put their story into context. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process before having the opportunity to purchase your own little warrior to take home. The atmospheric lanes of Xian's Muslim Quarter lead to the Grand Mosque founded after the introduction of Islam to China by Arabic traders arriving in the city from the Silk Road. Escape the bustle of the city and admire the blend of Chinese-Islamic architecture. Tonight there is an option to take a city night tour which includes the dazzling fountain display in front of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. (B,L)



▲ TEMPLE OF HEAVEN, BEIJING



▲ BIG WILD GOOSE PAGODA

**Day 7: Hanyangling Mausoleum**

Explore Hanyangling Mausoleum, burial place of Emperor Jing and Empress Wang. The artefacts recovered here give a fascinating insight into daily life during the Western Han Dynasty and there are intricately-made half-sized warriors, women and animals to admire in this subterranean tomb. Fly to Chengdu where the rest of the evening is free for you to spend at leisure. (B,L)

**Day 8: Mengdingshan tea**

Travel out to the lush tea plantations of Mengdingshan. Tea has been drunk in China for millennia and has become ever more ingrained in the culture, influenced by the Taoist, Buddhist and Confucian views of its consumption. Quality tea is also considered to be a gift fit for a king – it was once the tribute of choice for an emperor. Take a private tour of a plantation with a local farmer to learn about the entire tea-making process and its fascinating history. Return to Chengdu via the riverside village of Huanglongxi, where cobbled streets and rickety wooden buildings retain the charms of the Qing dynasty. This evening explore the dining options of the historic Wide and Narrow Alleys. (B,L)

**Day 9: Pandas with an expert**

Visit Chengdu's Panda Centre where an expert will talk to you about the Centre's work and the pandas themselves as you observe these peaceful bears. Spend the afternoon exploring Chengdu, visiting Wuhou Temple, dedicated to Zhuge Liang, and Jinli Street, a bustling road in the old city lined with antique shops, bars and restaurants. Take a tour of the Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum for a close up view of the skills necessary to create these traditional items – there will be opportunities to buy a handmade piece if you wish. Enjoy the quintessential Sichuan dining experience at Shujiu Xiang Hot Pot before puzzling over a national secret at the Sichuan Opera – the face-changing art of Bian Lian. (B,L,D)

**Day 10: Fly Chengdu to UK**

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK, arriving the same or following day. On arrival you will be transported home by chauffeured transfer. (B)



**THE EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION**

- 10 Days from
- Per person **£3,490**
- ✓ Inclusive from UK
- Comfortable

**2015 DEPART THU - RETURN SAT**

14 May - 23 May	£3,490	08 Oct - 17 Oct	£3,690
03 Sep - 12 Sep	£3,690		

**2016 DEPART THU - RETURN SAT**

12 May - 21 May	£3,790	06 Oct - 15 Oct	£3,990
01 Sep - 10 Sep	£3,990		

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
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  - Land only from £2,950 (Beijing - Chengdu)
  - Single room from £940
  - Tipping paid locally US\$72

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- UK airport chauffeur transfers
- Domestic transportation
- 5 ★ accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour From £3,990pp**



- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something a little more personal?
- Want the same levels of comfort, expertise and professional guiding but with more flexibility and your choice of hotel?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



**Extend in Lhasa**

4 days extra from **£1,990pp**

**Day 10: Fly to Lhasa**

Transfer to the exquisite Shangri-La Hotel. (B,D)

**Day 11: Bharkor and Jokhang**

Join the traditionally dressed locals and prostrating pilgrims on the Bharkor Circuit and in the sacred Jokhang Temple. (B,L,D)

**Day 12: Dalai Lama's Palaces**

Visit the Potala Palace and Norbulingka. Enjoy Tibetan and Yunnan tapas for dinner. (B,L,D)

**Day 13: Fly to Chengdu**

Return flight to Chengdu where the rest of the day will be at leisure. (B)

**Day 14: Depart Chengdu**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

Price based on flights from Chengdu.



▲ HUANGPU RIVER, SHANGHAI

**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: ANDY**

Visiting big cities and countryside and with extra touches like champagne on the Great Wall and Chinese face changing, this trip will give you a true picture of China.



# Exquisite China NEW

Indulge yourself with a deluxe Yangtze cruise and opulent hotels as a relaxed itinerary takes you from imperial treasures and Terracotta Warriors to vibrant cities, adorable pandas and delicious gastronomy, complete with many special experiences

- **Luxury on the Yangtze**
- **Iconic dining experiences**
- **Expert panda guide**
- **China's iconic sights**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**

Arrive at the airport by chauffeured transfer and fly overnight to Beijing. On arrival you will be accompanied by one of our experienced escorts to the hotel.

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Begin the day like many locals with gentle exercise, as you partake in a private Tai Chi lesson with a master in the Temple of Heaven park. Cross vast Tiananmen Square to the Forbidden City – a monument to a dynastic past, the palace served as the home of emperors for 500 years. Your visit includes entrance to the intimate Treasure Hall, a glittering gallery showcasing the everyday trappings of royal life. Visit a cloisonné workshop to witness the elaborate process of creating beautiful, enamelled objects with pieces available to buy. Dine on Peking Duck at the excellent Quanjude restaurant and enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show. (B,L,D)

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The lanes of Xian's Muslim Quarter lead to the Grand Mosque and gardens, founded after the introduction of Islam by Silk Road traders from Arabia. Escape the bustle of the city and admire the Chinese-Islamic architecture. Tonight there is an option for a city night tour that includes the dazzling fountain display in front of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. (B,L)

■ **Day 7: Sichuan Hot Pot**

Explore Hanyangling Mausoleum. The artefacts recovered here, viewable from the glass walkways above, give a fascinating insight into daily life during the Western Han Dynasty. Fly to Chengdu where you will walk down ancient Jinli Street before enjoy a quintessential Sichuan dining experience at Shujiu Xiang Hot Pot. Puzzle over a national secret at the Sichuan Opera – the face-changing art of Bian Lian. (B,L,D)



▲ SHENNONG STREAM



▲ TERRACOTTA WARRIORS

■ **Day 8: Pandas with an expert**

Visit Chengdu's Panda Centre where an expert will talk to you about the Centre's work and the pandas themselves as you observe these peaceful bears. Transfer to Chongqing and visit Ciqikou, a historic district full of traditional architecture – spend a free evening here exploring before boarding your ship. (B,L)

■ **Day 9: Captain's welcome**

The Yangtze has long played a pivotal role in the history, culture and economy of China – this voyage is the perfect way to get an insight into its importance. The first excursion will be to Shibaozhai, a hilltop pagoda beside the river. This evening the captain will host a welcome reception followed by a lavish dinner at the à la carte restaurant. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 10: Dramatic Yangtze Gorges**

Prepare for breathtaking vistas as we sweep through the Wu and Qutang gorges before cruising along the scenic Shennong Stream on a sampan to further explore. Back on the boat, expand your knowledge on the dam project with a presentation by the river guide. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 11: Three Gorges Dam Project**

This massive feat of engineering saw the century-old dreams of Chinese luminaries come to fruition. Created to harness the power of the Yangtze, it is difficult to not be awestruck as you stand on the viewing platform. Also visit the Three Gorges Dam exhibition centre. Our vessel must then negotiate the five-step Three Gorges Dam lock. Disembark and fly to Shanghai. (B,L)

■ **Day 12: Zhujiajiao water town**

China's attractive water towns exude a rustic charm. The 1,700 year old Zhujiajiao is a typical example, boasting old stone bridges, wood-panelled houses and numerous atmospheric waterways once used to transport goods. Return to Shanghai for a free afternoon or take part in an optional cooking class specialising in Shanghaiese cuisine. (B)

■ **Day 13: Stylish Shanghai**

Walk in the Yu Gardens, a classic example of traditional Chinese horticulture and admire the collections of the Shanghai Museum, before ascending to the Shanghai Financial Centre's viewing platform. Dine on acclaimed dumplings at Dintaifeng and toast the end of the tour with a cocktail at M on the Bund with views of the Pudong skyline. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 14: Fly Shanghai to UK**

Take the super-fast Maglev train to the airport for your flight back to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. On arrival you will be transported by chauffeured transfer. (B)

**THE EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION**

14 Days from

Per person **£3,990**

✓ Inclusive from UK

➤ Comfortable

**2015 DEPART FRI - RETURN THU**

08 May - 21 May **£3,990** 09 Oct - 22 Oct **£4,190**

11 Sep - 24 Sep **£4,190**

**2016 DEPART FRI - RETURN THU**

06 May - 19 May **£4,290** 07 Oct - 20 Oct **£4,490**

09 Sep - 22 Sep **£4,490**

**Flight and supplement information**

**Based on London Heathrow departures**

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,460 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £1,090
- Tipping paid locally US\$113

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- UK airport chauffeur transfers
- Domestic transportation
- 5 ★ accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Enjoy as a Private Tour From **£4,490pp**

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something a little more personal?
- Want the same levels of comfort, expertise and professional guiding but with more flexibility and your choice of hotel?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



**Extend in Lijiang**

4 days extra from **£1,390pp**

■ **Day 14: Fly to Lijiang**

Transfer to the gorgeous Banyan Tree Resort. (B)

■ **Days 15-16: At leisure**

Enjoy the facilities of the serene Banyan Tree Resort, or take advantage of optional excursions to the Old Town, Tiger Leaping Gorge or Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. (B)

■ **Day 17: Fly to Kunming**

Visit the mysterious Stone Forest with its fascinating formations. (B)

■ **Day 18: Depart Kunming**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

Includes internal flights from Shanghai.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: VIVIAN**

The highlight of this tour for me is the cultural experiences. A Tai Chi lesson and learning to make dumplings are excellent ways to really immerse yourself in all things China.



▲ YANGSHUO

# Legends of China NEW

Discover the best of China's many wonders on this lavish cross-country adventure. Experience natural grandeur and imperial treasures, witness man-made marvels and ultra-modern miracles, as you wend your way from Beijing to Shanghai in style

- **Champagne on the Great Wall**
- **Iconic dining experiences**
- **Karst landscapes of the Li River**
- **Deluxe Yangtze cruising**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**

Arrive at the airport by chauffeured transfer and fly overnight to Beijing. On arrival you will be accompanied by one of our experienced escorts to the hotel.

■ **Day 3: Explore Imperial Beijing**

Begin the day like many locals with gentle exercise, as you partake in a private Tai Chi lesson with a master in the Temple of Heaven park. Cross vast Tiananmen Square to the Forbidden City – a monument to a dynastic past, the palace served as the home of emperors for 500 years. Your visit includes entrance to the intimate Treasure Hall, a glittering gallery showcasing the everyday trappings of royal life. Visit a cloisonné workshop to witness the elaborate process of creating beautiful, enamelled objects with pieces available to buy. Dine on Peking Duck at the excellent Quanjude restaurant and enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 4: Champagne on the Great Wall**

From the Gobi Desert to the Bohai Sea, the Great Wall stretches thousands of miles. Visit the lesser-known Huanghuacheng section, stopping at the ideal spot to enjoy a glass of champagne whilst admiring the views of lakes and craggy peaks. Back in Beijing take a rickshaw ride through the hutongs where you'll stop for a lesson in calligraphy with a learned scholar. Enjoy a free evening at lively Houhai Lake. (B,L)

■ **Day 5: Traditional Shaanxi Dumplings**

Fly to Xian. Walk on the 14th century walls for an excellent overview of the city before studying with local dumpling chefs to learn the art of creating these cultural delicacies. Dine on the results before watching a Tang Dynasty dance performance. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 6: The Terracotta Warriors**

Fortuitously found by local farmers, the Terracotta Warriors are one of the world's most famous archaeological discoveries. View the enigmatic ranks in the company of an archaeologist who works at the site and who will put their story into context. The lanes of Xian's Muslim Quarter lead to

the Grand Mosque and gardens, founded after the introduction of Islam by Silk Road traders from Arabia. Admire the Chinese-Islamic architecture. (B,L)

■ **Day 7: Beautiful Guilin**

Explore Hanyangling Mausoleum. The artefacts recovered here, viewable from the glass walkways above, give a fascinating insight into daily life during the Western Han Dynasty. Fly to Guilin, a city set in the dramatic limestone karst landscapes of the Li River valley. Visit the China South Pearl Museum to discover the fascinating 1,700 year history of pearling in the South China Sea. As well as displays and demonstrations there are also beautiful pieces to buy. (B,L)

■ **Day 8: Cruise the Li River**

Cruise the Li River to Yangshuo. The magnificence of the limestone karsts and serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. On arrival, enjoy dinner at Pure Lotus vegetarian restaurant before 'Impression Sanjie Liu', a light spectacular that perfectly utilises the karst landscape as a theatre and the Li River as a stage. (B,L,D)



▲ ZHUJIAJIAO



▲ SHANGHAI

■ **Day 9: At leisure in Yangshuo**

Relax, explore or take part in an optional activity such as walking in the countryside, learning Chinese painting or a cooking class. This evening watch Yangshuo's famous cormorant fishermen demonstrating their age-old technique. (B)

■ **Day 10: Ancient Ciqikou**

Fly to Chongqing and explore the Ming Dynasty district of Ciqikou. Meander along the narrow streets of lantern-clad houses before transferring to the wharf to board President Number 8, your cruise liner for the next three nights. (B,L)

■ **Day 11: Captain's welcome**

The Yangtze has long played a pivotal role in the history, culture and economy of China – this voyage is the perfect way to get an insight into its importance. The first excursion will be to Shibaozhai, a hilltop pagoda beside the river. This evening the captain will host a welcome reception followed by a lavish dinner at the à la carte restaurant. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 12: Dramatic Yangtze Gorges**

Prepare for breathtaking vistas as we sweep through the Wu and Qutang gorges before cruising along the scenic Shennong Stream on a sampan to further explore. Back on the boat, expand your knowledge on the dam project with a presentation by the ship's river guide. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 13: Three Gorges Dam Project**

This massive feat of engineering saw the century-old dreams of Chinese luminaries come to fruition. Created to harness the power of the Yangtze, it is difficult to not be awestruck as you stand on the viewing platform. Also visit the Three Gorges Dam exhibition centre. Our vessel must then negotiate the five-step Three Gorges Dam lock before we disembark and fly to Shanghai. (B,L)

■ **Day 14: Zhujiajiao water town**

China's attractive water towns exude a rustic charm. The 1,700 year old Zhujiajiao is a typical example, boasting old stone bridges, wood-pannelled houses and numerous atmospheric waterways once used to transport goods. Return to Shanghai for a free afternoon or take part in an optional cooking class specialising in Shanghaiese cuisine. (B)

■ **Day 15: Stylish Shanghai**

Walk in the Yu Gardens, a classic example of traditional Chinese horticulture and admire the collections of the Shanghai Museum, before ascending to the Shanghai Financial Centre's viewing platform. Dine on acclaimed dumplings at Dintaifeng and toast the end of the tour with a cocktail at M on the Bund with views of the Pudong skyline. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 16: Fly Shanghai to UK**

Take the super-fast Maglev train to the airport for your flight back to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. On arrival you will be transported by chauffeured transfer. (B)

**THE EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION**

16 Days from

Per person **£4,490**

✓ Inclusive from UK

➤ Comfortable

**2015 DEPART WED - RETURN THU**

13 May - 28 May	£4,490	14 Oct - 29 Oct	£4,690
16 Sep - 01 Oct	£4,690		

**2016 DEPART WED - RETURN THU**

11 May - 26 May	£4,790	12 Oct - 27 Oct	£4,990
14 Sep - 29 Sep	£4,990		

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,960 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £1,290
- Tipping paid locally US\$129

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- UK airport chauffeur transfers
- Domestic transportation
- 5 ★ accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Enjoy as a Private Tour From **£4,990pp**



- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something a little more independent?
  - Want the same levels of service, comfort and expertise but on a more personal level?
- Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



Extend in Hong Kong 3 days extra from **£990pp**

- **Day 16: Fly to Hong Kong**  
Transfer to your luxury five-star hotel. (B)
- **Day 17: Tour Hong Kong Island**  
Enjoy a half day tour of Hong Kong Island, taking in all of the best sights, including Victoria Peak. This afternoon there is an optional tour to Sai Kung, a charming fishing town in the New Territories, which will include dinner. (B)
- **Day 18: Free day**  
Spend the day shopping or exploring Hong Kong's many parks and beaches. (B)
- **Day 19: Depart Hong Kong**  
Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)  
*Includes flights from Shanghai.*



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
LINDA**

Having an expert with you when you are visiting the Terracotta Warriors gives a great insight into their history – I learn something new every time I visit.



▲ YANGTZE

# Spirit of the Yangtze NEW

Cruise the mighty Yangtze River on a six night voyage of discovery after enjoying some of China's most renowned and awe-inspiring sights on an itinerary that perfectly blends majestic nature, cultural heritage and modern wonders

- **Tai Chi class with a master**
- **VIP cruise package**
- **Terracotta Warriors with an expert**
- **Three Gorges cruise**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**

Arrive at the airport by chauffeured transfer and fly overnight to Beijing. On arrival you will be accompanied by one of our experienced escorts to the hotel.

■ **Day 3: Explore Imperial Beijing**

Begin the day like many locals with gentle exercise, as you partake in a private Tai Chi lesson with a master in the Temple of Heaven park. Cross vast Tiananmen Square to the Forbidden City – a monument to a dynastic past, the palace served as the home of emperors for 500 years. Your visit includes entrance to the intimate Treasure Hall, a glittering gallery showcasing the everyday trappings of royal life. Visit a cloisonné workshop to witness the elaborate process of creating beautiful, enamelled objects with pieces available to buy. Dine on Peking Duck at the excellent Quanjude restaurant and enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 4: Champagne on the Great Wall**

From the Gobi Desert to the Bohai Sea, the Great Wall stretches thousands of miles. Visit the lesser-known Huanghuacheng section, stopping at the ideal spot to enjoy a glass of champagne whilst admiring the views of lakes and craggy peaks. Back in Beijing take a rickshaw ride through the hutongs where you'll stop for a lesson in calligraphy with a learned scholar. Enjoy a free evening at lively Houhai Lake. (B,L)

■ **Day 5: Traditional Shaanxi Dumplings**

Fly to Xian. Walk on the 14th century walls for an excellent overview of the city before studying with local dumpling chefs to learn the art of creating these cultural delicacies. Dine on the results before watching a Tang Dynasty dance performance. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 6: The Terracotta Warriors**

Fortuitously found by local farmers, the Terracotta Warriors are one of the world's most famous archaeological discoveries. View the enigmatic ranks in the company of an archaeologist who works at the site and who will put their story into context. The lanes of Xian's Muslim Quarter lead to

the Grand Mosque and gardens, founded after the introduction of Islam by Silk Road traders from Arabia. Admire the Chinese-Islamic architecture. Tonight there is an option for a city night tour that includes the dazzling fountain display in front of the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. (B,L)

■ **Day 7: Sichuan Hot Pot**

Explore Hanyangling Mausoleum. The artefacts recovered here, viewable from the glass walk ways above, give a fascinating insight into daily life during the Western Han Dynasty. Fly to Chengdu where you will walk down ancient Jinli Street before enjoying a quintessential Sichuan dining experience at Shujiu Xiang Hot Pot. Puzzle over a national secret at the Sichuan Opera – the face-changing art of Bian Lian. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 8: Pandas with an expert**

Visit Chengdu's Panda Centre where an expert will talk to you about the Centre's work and the pandas themselves as you observe these peaceful bears. Transfer to Chongqing and visit Ciqikou, a historic district full of traditional architecture – spend a free evening here exploring. (B,L)



▲ BELL TOWER, XIAN

■ **Day 9: Welcome aboard**

Board your cruise vessel and begin to enjoy your private balcony and VIP package. The Yangtze has long played a pivotal role in the history, culture and economy of China, and this voyage is the perfect way to illustrate its importance. The first stop will be Fengdu, a complex of structures and statues that represent Diyu, the concept of the underworld in Chinese mythology. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 10: Dramatic Yangtze Gorges**

Prepare for breathtaking vistas as we sweep through the Qutang and Wu gorges. Switching to smaller boats voyage into the attractive gorges of the Goddess Stream. Our vessel must then negotiate the five-step Three Gorges Dam lock as you expand your knowledge on the dam project with a presentation by the ship's river guide. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 11: Three Gorges Dam**

This massive feat of engineering saw the century-old dreams of Chinese luminaries come to fruition. Created to harness the power of the Yangtze, it is difficult to not be awestruck as you stand on the viewing platform. Also visit the Three Gorges Dam exhibition centre. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 12: Hubei Provincial Museum**

Take a shore excursion to the city of Wuhan and the Hubei Provincial Museum. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 13: Mountain scenery**

Delight in beautiful mountain panoramas on an excursion to Jiuhuashan. (B,L,D)



▲ NANJING

■ **Day 14: Imperial Nanjing**

Visit historical Nanjing and the mausoleum of Dr Sun Yat Sen, the "Father of the Nation". Enjoy a farewell banquet on the boat. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 15: Travel to Shanghai**

Disembark and transfer to Shanghai. This evening, savour the vast number of dining options and the mid-19th century shikumen architecture of the lively Xintiandi district. (B,L)

■ **Day 16: Zhujiajiao water town**

China's attractive water towns exude a rustic charm. The 1,700 year old Zhujiajiao is a typical example, boasting old stone bridges, wood-panelled houses and numerous atmospheric waterways once used to transport goods. Return to Shanghai for a free afternoon or take part in an optional cooking class specialising in Shanghainese cuisine. (B)

■ **Day 17: Stylish Shanghai**

Walk in the Yu Gardens, a classic example of traditional Chinese horticulture. Admire the collections of the Shanghai Museum, before ascending to the Shanghai Financial Centre's viewing platform. Dine on acclaimed dumplings at Dintaifeng and toast the end of the tour with a cocktail at M on the Bund with views of the Pudong skyline. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 18: Fly Shanghai to UK**

Take the super-fast Maglev train to the airport for your flight back to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. On arrival you will be transported by chauffeured transfer. (B)



**THE EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION**

18 Days from

Per person **£4,490**

✓ Inclusive from UK

➤ Comfortable

**2015 DEPART FRI - RETURN MON**

17 Apr - 04 May	£4,490	11 Sep - 28 Sep	£4,690
15 May - 01 Jun	£4,490	09 Oct - 26 Oct	£4,690

**2016 DEPART FRI - RETURN MON**

15 Apr - 02 May	£4,790	09 Sep - 26 Sep	£4,990
13 May - 30 May	£4,790	07 Oct - 24 Oct	£4,990

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £3,960 (Beijing - Shanghai)
  - Single room from £1,690
  - Tipping paid locally US\$146

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- UK airport chauffeur transfers
- Domestic transportation
- 5 ★ accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**  
From **£5,190pp**



- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something a little more personal?
  - Want the same levels of comfort, expertise and professional guiding but with more flexibility and your choice of hotel?
- Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



**Extend in Hangzhou**  
3 days extra from **£1,190pp**

■ **Day 18: Transfer to Hangzhou**

Check in to the Banyan Tree Resort. (B)

■ **Day 19: Discover Hangzhou**

Spend a restful morning exploring Lingyin Temple and see the Six Harmonies Pagoda before heading to the lush tea farms for an oriental tea tasting. Hangzhou is best known for the lake at its centre and this afternoon will be spent cruising on it, admiring the gardens, pagodas and old bridges on its shores. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 20: Free day**

There are optional activities available at the hotel, such as spa treatments, cycling, yoga and tours to the Xixi Wetlands (paid locally). (B)

■ **Day 21: Depart Hangzhou**

Transfer to Shanghai Airport for your flight to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

# Exclusive Extensions

End your holiday in style with these indulgent extensions which feature 5 star hotels, chosen for their authentic ambience. Combine additional exploration with some well-deserved relaxation time.



## Hangzhou

**3** Nights from **£1,190** per person

The garden city of Hangzhou, sitting in surroundings of lush farmland and tea plantations, has been one of China's notable cultural centres for centuries. The legendary West Lake, sitting at the modern city's heart, exudes old-world oriental charm with banks draped with willow trees, dotted with old pagodas and backed by hazy hills. Its beauty has been long celebrated by poets and artists. Cruise the lake and visit tranquil temples before enjoying a free day for personal explorations.



## Hong Kong

**3** Nights from **£540** per person

Hong Kong is a thrilling sensory explosion. This cosmopolitan and dynamic metropolis has absorbed a distinctly Chinese character and mixed it with the colonial influences of the past, creating what is arguably the ultimate east-meets-west destination. Indulge in some of the world's best shopping, taste exotic cuisine, and admire the glimmering skyline on a half day city tour. Use your free day to escape to the outlying islands and enjoy nature with isolated hikes, beaches, and charming, cultural sights.

### Banyan Tree Hangzhou

Sitting on the edge of the Xixi Wetlands, the Banyan Tree is a peaceful haven of culture and nature. The graceful lines of the traditional architecture sit effortlessly side by side with the landscape. Romantic bridges cross tranquil ponds with elegant villas set on their grassy banks. Inside the décor is warm and welcoming and rooms offer simple yet decadent comfort with oriental flourishes. Facilities include an indulgent spa, a library, indoor swimming pool, two restaurants and a lounge bar.

#### Price includes:

- 3 nights hotel
- Return transfers
- Full day tour
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch and dinner on second day

*Additional flight costs may apply.*

### InterContinental Grand Stanford

Sitting in a prime spot right on Kowloon's waterfront, the InterContinental's luxuriously-appointed rooms feature floor to ceiling windows with harbour or city views. Elegantly contemporary throughout you can relax by the rooftop pool, work up a sweat in the fitness centre, eat delectable cuisine at a wide selection of world-class dining options, and enjoy excellent, friendly service. With a complimentary shuttle bus to the Star Ferry Terminal area, the whole of Hong Kong is on your doorstep.

#### Price includes:

- 3 nights hotel
- Return airport transfers
- Half day tour
- Breakfast daily

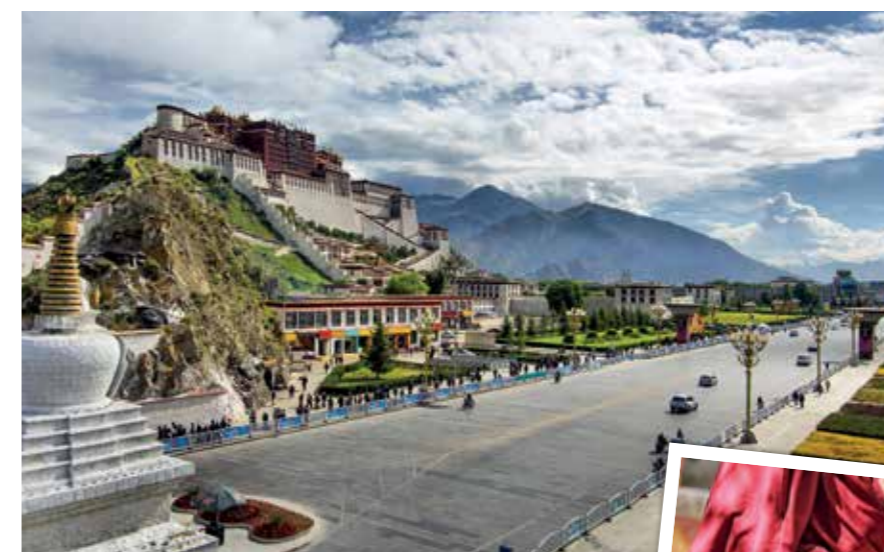
*Based on international flights with Cathay Pacific.*



## Lijiang & Kunming

**4** Nights from **£1,390** per person

The quintessential Chinese 'old town', Lijiang is located amongst the dramatic landscapes of Yunnan province. Its charming old quarter is a jumble of cobbled streets, rickety wooden buildings and romantic stone bridges that cross the town's many waterways, fed by the gurgling waters of the Jade River. In short, it's a delightful place to aimlessly wander. Lijiang is also the perfect base to explore the spectacular surroundings – take an optional excursion to the magnificent Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and dramatic Tiger Leaping Gorge.



## Lhasa

**4** Nights from **£1,990** per person

The heart and soul of Tibet, Lhasa is the capital city on the roof of the world. A growing, modern city on first appearance, but at its core you'll step back into an old world where pilgrims make their way around the Barkor Circuit to the fascinating Jokhang Temple, locals dress in traditional costume and old prayer wheels creak as they spin. Visit the key sights, the Barkhor Circuit, Jokhang Temple, Sera Monastery, Norbuligka and, of course, the magnificent Potala Palace, whilst immersed in the mystical ambience of Tibet.

### Banyan Tree Lijiang

An oasis of tranquillity, the Banyan Tree Lijiang is designed as a reinterpretation of traditional Naxi architecture with a sumptuous twist. Villas nestle in manicured gardens with striking views of the surrounding mountain scenery housing rooms that are elegantly decorated in traditional fabrics and rich colours. A spa, two restaurants, a bar and fitness centre top the facilities of this indulgent hotel.

### Green Lake Hotel, Kunming

Located next to Kunming's lovely Green Lake Park, this impressive hotel offers luxuriously decorated, well-appointed guestrooms with views over the park or the city. There are also three dining options and an indoor pool.

#### Price includes:

- 4 nights hotel
- Return airport transfers
- Half day Stone Forest tour
- Breakfast daily

*Includes internal flights from Shanghai.*

### Shangri-La Lhasa

The Shangri-La does luxury in a Tibetan style to perfection. All rooms are elegantly decadent with mountain views with an overlaying peaceful ambience that allows for total relaxation. Make use of the indoor swimming pool, fitness centre and sauna, and enjoy a pre-or post-dinner drink in one of the stylish lounges after a long day of discovery.

### Ritz-Carlton Chengdu

A hotel that marries modern sophistication and traditional flourishes, this deluxe hotel offers views over Tianfu Square and downtown Chengdu. Indulge in unique dining experiences, make use of the spa and fitness centre or relax in your sleek and spacious accommodation.

#### Price includes:

- 3 nights in Lhasa
- 1 night in Chengdu
- Return airport transfers
- 2 full days touring in Lhasa
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch on days 2 & 3
- Dinner on days 1, 2 & 3

*Includes internal flights from Chengdu.*

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# Winter Tours

Witness China transformed into an enchanting winter wonderland. Wander on the Great Wall blanketed in snow, or beside the frozen waterfalls of Jiuzhaigou. Visit the Forbidden City with hardly anyone there to disturb your view, or revel in Shanghai under sparkling fireworks during Chinese New Year.

With clear blue skies, sunshine and crisp, cool air – winter is an excellent time to visit China.

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▲ CHINESE NEW YEAR, SHANGHAI

# Chinese New Year

During the Spring Festival, Chinese families come together in a series of vibrant and colourful celebrations culminating in the Chinese New Year. We have created a tour that immerses you deep into the local culture, finishing with a spectacular cruise on New Year's Eve with Wendy Wu herself

- Great Wall & Terracotta Warriors
- Join a local family in Beijing
- Make dumplings in Xian
- New Year cruise with Wendy Wu

## ■ Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing

Fly to Beijing, China's capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

## ■ Day 3: Great Wall

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the wall itself and the magnificent scenery that it crosses, glittering in the winter cold. Savour a relaxed afternoon in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional gardens and admire exquisite architecture. The people of Beijing have their own traditions and customs when it comes to celebrating New Year, and you'll have a fascinating opportunity to immerse yourself in these festivities when we visit a local family. As they get ready for the big event you'll help them prepare wonderfully

elaborate paper decorations and you'll also learn about Chinese calligraphy and the writing of couplets. This evening sit down to a traditional dinner of Peking Duck.

## ■ Day 4: Imperial Beijing

We begin in Beijing's symbolic heart with a stroll across Tiananmen Square, flanked by imposing government buildings and the mausoleum of Chairman Mao. At the head of the square the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City is a monument to dynasties past. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex of a thousand rooms and many imperial treasures. Fly to the former ancient capital of Xian. An illustrious and age-old city, Xian is one of the four great ancient capitals of China, the capital of Shaanxi province, and starting point of the fabled Silk Road with a history spanning 3,100 years. The people of Xian adore dumplings and at New Year they celebrate by showing their appreciation for these utterly moreish morsels. Your group will be joined by local chefs and you'll be shown how to make Xian's favourite dish. You'll then sit down and dine on your tasty creations.

## ■ Day 5: Terracotta Warriors

After their fortuitous discovery by local farmers in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life-like warriors who stand guard in their original formations within huge buildings. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and choose to purchase your own little warrior to take home. Fly to the cosmopolitan city of Shanghai.



### NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: JASON

This is a special opportunity for you to experience the atmosphere of Chinese New Year. You can also interact with local families to get a better understanding of Chinese daily life.



▲ CHINESE LANTERNS



▲ FORBIDDEN CITY, BEIJING

## ■ Day 6: New Year's Eve

Away from Shanghai's glittering skyscrapers there is still a thriving and traditional community. We take you deep into this part of the city to a place called Nanxiang. Here you will experience a truly authentic Chinese New Year. Out on the bustling streets it seems like the entire city is out shopping as families stock up with the most diverse and delicious food. Experience a glorious cacophony of sensual stimulation, quite different from a Saturday afternoon in Sainsburys. This evening join Wendy Wu on board our cruise ship where you'll be greeted by a welcoming committee of costumed dancers and drummers. Drift along the Huangpu River to the sounds of the local revelry and celebrate the new year. Soak in the night time vistas of the historic Bund and futuristic Pudong.

## ■ Day 7: New Year's Day

A relaxed day sightseeing around Shanghai. Savour the relative tranquility of the Yu Gardens; admire the fine arts and antiquities of the Shanghai Museum and wander along the Bund to see the magnificent colonial architecture. Few things are more symbolic of Chinese New Year than the spectacularly decorated lanterns that adorn the streets at this time of year. You'll witness an astounding array of colour and light and all kinds of incredibly designed lanterns. This is a superb way to finish off your New Year experience.

## ■ Day 8: Fly Shanghai to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

### A MESSAGE FROM WENDY

Chinese New Year celebrates the end of the winter season and the embracing of a new season of renewed fortune and luck. Behind the visible, colourful festivals, this holiday period is a time when families gather and participate in local celebrations all regionally quirky and diverse.

A journey to celebrate Chinese New Year should not only witness public festivities available to everyone but also observe and participate in true community experiences that only a specialist like Wendy Wu Tours can provide. We'll spend New Year's Eve cruising down the Huangpu River with entertainment and lots to eat and drink.

Only with Wendy Wu Tours will you experience authentic Chinese New Year, just like the locals!

Wendy Wu – Owner, Wendy Wu Tours

## WINTER TOUR

- 8 Days from
- Per person **£1,990**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Comfortable

<b>2015 DEPART FRI - RETURN FRI</b>	
13 Feb - 20 Feb	£1,990
<b>2016 DEPART FRI - RETURN FRI</b>	
02 Feb - 09 Feb*	£2,290

\* Days of the week different to those stated

### Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £1,460 (Beijing - Shanghai)
  - Single room from £130
  - Tipping paid locally US\$50

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

### Enjoy as a Private Tour

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



### Stopover in Hong Kong 3 nights from £290pp

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious.

See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.



**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: CHRISTIAN**

Take 10 days to explore all of the different images of China – the modern, the ancient and natural landscapes. Nine Villages Valley in the winter is absolutely spectacular.



▲ NINE VILLAGES VALLEY

# Winter Wonderland NEW

Snow-capped peaks, glittering frozen waterfalls and frost-kissed trees – relish some of China's most magnificent natural scenery transformed into a magical winter wonderland. Combined with some of the country's most iconic sights, this tour showcases China in all its wintery glory

- **Beijing and the Great Wall**
- **Terracotta Warriors**
- **Adorable pandas**
- **Nine Villages Valley**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**

Fly to Beijing, China's fascinating capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Imperial Beijing**

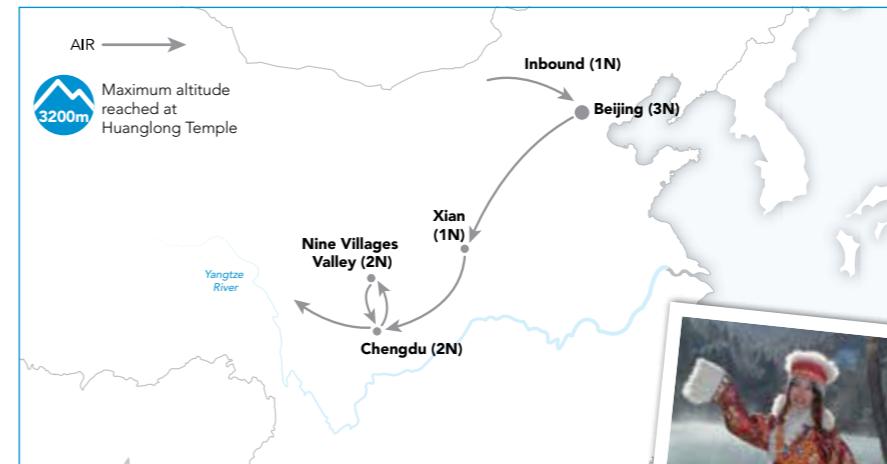
We begin in Beijing's symbolic heart with a stroll across Tiananmen Square, flanked by imposing government buildings and the mausoleum of Chairman Mao. At the head of the square the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City is a monument to dynasties past. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex of a thousand rooms and many imperial treasures. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. This evening sit down to a traditional dinner of Peking Duck.

■ **Day 4: Great Wall**

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Stretching thousands of miles from the Yellow Sea to the Gobi Desert, over all sorts of dramatic landscapes, it is one of the world's most impressive feats of engineering. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the wall itself and the magnificent scenery that it crosses glittering in the winter cold. Savour a relaxed afternoon in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional gardens and admire exquisite architecture. Jade has been long cherished by the Chinese, at the Jade Museum you can understand and appreciate the delicate process of carving the stone and buy a piece if you wish. Round off the day with a Chinese acrobatic show.

■ **Day 5: Terracotta Warriors**

Fly to the former ancient capital of Xian. After their fortuitous discovery by local farmers in the 1970s, the Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors ever since. Spend the afternoon viewing the enigmatic ranks of life-like warriors who stand guard in their original formations within huge buildings. This evening enjoy a delicious feast of local Shui Jiao dumplings and watch a traditional Tang Dynasty dance show.



▲ GREAT WALL OF CHINA

■ **Day 6: Xian**

Take a leisurely morning stroll along Xian's wonderfully-preserved 14th century city walls. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province.

■ **Day 7: Pandas**

A visit to Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre allows you to see and learn about China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Watch as they chomp through piles of bamboo. A look around the informative museum gives an overview of the Reserve's breeding programme. This afternoon, fly to Nine Villages Valley, located in the mountains of Sichuan. A national park of ragged, snowy peaks, sapphire lakes, abundant forest and rushing waterfalls, Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou National Park) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. In winter it takes on an even more magical quality when the trees are ice-coated and the waterfalls freeze in mid-flow. This evening you will have dinner with a local family.



▲ PANDA CONSERVATION CENTRE, CHENGDU

■ **Day 8: Nine Villages Valley**

This morning there will be time to fully immerse yourself in the lively and colourful Ice Festival with its array of dance, music and activities, all focussed around the magnificent frozen waterfalls found in the heart of the valley. A trip up to the top of the valley to the Long Lake, the highest, deepest and largest in the area, offers spectacular alpine views whilst a short walk to the Five-Coloured Lake and Nuorilang Falls showcase some of the valley's most beautiful sights. Visits to the local paper tree and a Tibetan temple are a relaxing finish to the day's activities. This evening, at the festival, enjoy a buffet dinner, a local show and big outdoor bonfires complimented by singing and dancing. The late night lamb cooked on spits, a local tradition, is a must try.

■ **Day 9: Shuzheng village**

Visit Shuzheng village, the largest settlement in the park. Spend some time with a local Tibetan family who will give you an insight into daily life in Nine Villages Valley. A lovely afternoon walk takes you from Rhinoceros Lake, passing Tiger Lake, ending at Reed Lake – an excellent way to really relish the beautiful scenery. You'll pass an old watermill, many prayer wheels and Tibetan prayer flags en route. Transfer back to Jiuzhai Huanglong airport for the return flight to Chengdu, arriving just in time to experience a traditional Sichuan dinner and a Bian Lian 'face changing' performance.

■ **Day 10: Fly Chengdu to UK**

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

**WINTER TOUR**

- 10 Days from
- Per person **£2,690**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate

2015 DEPART WED - RETURN SAT	
14 Jan - 24 Jan	£2,690
2016 DEPART SUN - RETURN WED	
03 Jan - 13 Jan	£2,890

**Flight and supplement information**

**Based on London Heathrow departures**

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,190 (Beijing - Chengdu)
- Single room from £195
- Tipping paid locally US\$70

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Stopover in Macau**  
2 nights from **£290pp**

Discover the former Portuguese colony of Macau, a glittering combination of Mediterranean and Asian influences, where conservative colonial heritage rubs shoulders with brash, Las Vegas-esque casinos. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



▲ HARBIN ICE FESTIVAL

# Harbin Ice & Snow Festival

Immerse yourself in a magical winter fantasy world admiring the magnificent ice-sculpture masterpieces of Harbin's unique festival before joining Wendy Wu herself to bring in the Chinese New Year

- Harbin's spectacular ice sculptures
- Beautiful ice lanterns
- Chinese New Year with Wendy Wu
- Cosmopolitan Shanghai

### ■ Days 1-2: Fly to Harbin

Fly overnight to Harbin, China's 'Ice City'. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

### ■ Days 3-4: Ice & Snow Festival

Situated on the bank of the Songhua River, Harbin has long been the crossroads of Chinese and Russian culture. Evident in its architecture, style and cuisine Harbin truly displays an ideal blend of east and west. The city is most famous for its annual Ice & Snow Festival – the largest of its kind – where participants travel from all over the world to exhibit majestic winter sculptures. Take a tour through the festival, see fearless swimmers brave icy temperatures averaging -15C, and explore the Siberian and Jewish influences in this fascinating city.

### ■ Day 5: Fly to Shanghai

This morning, fly to Shanghai. Known as the 'Paris of the East', Shanghai is China's greatest metropolis and emanates the image of modern China. Today's explorations include the beautiful Yu Gardens; the atmospheric alleys of the old town and a visit to the Shanghai Museum, filled with copious relics and artefacts from all eras of China's diverse history.

### ■ Day 6: Chinese New Year

The next day, join Wendy Wu and bring in the Chinese New Year with dinner, music and dancing on board your cruise ship. Sail down the mighty Huangpu River and be joined by a welcoming committee of dancers and drummers as you gaze upon night-time vistas of the historic Bund and futuristic Pudong.

### ■ Day 7: Shanghai

Spend the day exploring the city and enjoying the Chinese New Year spirit.

## WINTER TOUR

- 8 Days from
- Per person **£2,290**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Comfortable



2015 DEPART FRI - RETURN FRI	
13 Feb - 20 Feb	£2,290
2016 DEPART TUE - RETURN TUE	
02 Feb - 09 Feb	£2,390
Flight and supplement information	
Based on London Heathrow departures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flight upgrades available on request</li> <li>■ Single room from £240</li> <li>■ Land only from £1,760 (Harbin - Shanghai)</li> <li>■ Tipping paid locally US\$50</li> </ul>	
Price includes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ International flights and current taxes</li> <li>■ Domestic transportation</li> <li>■ Accommodation</li> <li>■ All meals</li> <li>■ Touring with guides and entrance fees</li> <li>■ Visa fees for UK &amp; EU passport holders</li> </ul>	

### ■ Day 8: Fly Shanghai to UK

Transfer to the airport for your flight home arriving the same or following day.



▲ RED PANDA

# In Pursuit of Pandas Christmas Special

Celebrate Christmas in a new and exciting way in China – taking a Christmas Day walk on the Great Wall and bringing in the New Year in Chengdu, home to the magnificent Giant Panda

- Christmas on the Great Wall
- The Terracotta Warriors
- Leshan's Grand Buddha
- Chengdu's Giant Pandas

### ■ Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing

Fly overnight to Beijing, China's capital city.

### ■ Day 3: The Great Wall on Christmas Day

Christmas Day morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the wall itself and the magnificent scenery that it crosses. In the afternoon savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional gardens. Indulge in delicious Peking Duck for Christmas dinner.

### ■ Day 4: Imperial Beijing

Stroll across Tiananmen Square to the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City – a monument of dynasties past. Here you will find a complex of a thousand rooms and many imperial treasures. Later soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape.

### ■ Day 5: Fly to Xian

Fly to the illustrious and age-old city Xian. Take a stroll along the 14th-century city walls before a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

### ■ Day 6: Terracotta Warriors

The Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has long intrigued visitors. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life-like warriors.

### ■ Day 7: Historical Xian

Admire the priceless relics of the Shaanxi Museum and wander around the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter. Fly to Chengdu, famously home to the Chengdu Panda Base.

### ■ Day 8: Grand Buddha of Leshan

Travel to Leshan to visit the Grand Buddha, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At 71 metres, this is the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist monument. A short boat trip on the river will give even better views of the statue. Return to Chengdu, where the excitement of the upcoming New Year is tangible.

## WINTER TOUR

- 11 Days from
- Per person **£2,590**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Comfortable



2015 DEPART WED - RETURN SAT	
23 Dec - 02 Jan	£2,590
2016 DEPART FRI - RETURN MON	
23 Dec - 02 Jan	£2,690
Flight and supplement information	
Based on London Heathrow departures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flight upgrades available on request</li> <li>■ Single room from £270</li> <li>■ Land only from £1,820 (Beijing - Chengdu)</li> <li>■ Tipping paid locally US\$45</li> </ul>	
Price includes:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ International flights and current taxes</li> <li>■ Domestic transportation</li> <li>■ Accommodation</li> <li>■ All meals</li> <li>■ Touring with guides and entrance fees</li> <li>■ Visa fees for UK &amp; EU passport holders</li> </ul>	

### ■ Day 9: Giant Pandas

Spend New Year's Eve at Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre where you'll see China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Later visit the ancient Dujiangyan Irrigation project. Celebrate the New Year with a delicious Sichuan dinner.

### ■ Day 10: New Years Day

Today is a free day to enjoy charming Chengdu. There are numerous temples to discover, as well as vibrant Jinli Street.

### ■ Day 11: Fly Chengdu to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



RHS Garden Holidays

PROUDLY OPERATED BY WENDY WU TOURS

# Garden Tours

Designed in conjunction with the  
Royal Horticultural Society

Join us as we follow in the footsteps of the original plant hunters to China, a source of fascination for plant lovers for the past 200 years. Vast, diverse and rich in culture and history, the country is home to one eighth of the world's plant species.



▲ NINE VILLAGES VALLEY

# Plant Seekers

Follow in the footsteps of the great plant hunters who scoured China to find, study and collect the plants that have become a common presence in our gardens today. Journey through a wide range of environments, from high peaks to temperate forests, discovering a diverse wealth of flora as you go

- The RHS flagship horticultural tour
- Emeishan's diverse flora
- The Nine Villages Valley
- Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Chengdu**  
Fly overnight from the UK to Chengdu. Tonight, get to know your fellow garden enthusiasts at a welcome reception with your RHS hosts.

■ **Day 3: Leshan**  
Travel to Leshan to visit the Grand Buddha which, at 71 metres, is the world's largest stone Buddhist monument. This UNESCO World Heritage-listed site is carved into a hillside overlooking the confluence of the Dadu and Min Rivers – a short boat trip gives excellent views. Continue on to Emeishan and visit Fuhushi Temple, an atmospheric temple surrounded by lush forest.

■ **Day 4: Emeishan**  
Explore sacred Emeishan, a revered Buddhist mountain, notable for its exceptionally diverse vegetation – a tenth of China's plant species are found here. Take a cable car up to Wannian Temple where there will be time to explore. The afternoon is yours to admire the striking, ever shifting, natural beauty of the mountain and its setting. The RHS guides will take you to some significant botanical spots before regrouping to examine the species of Emeishan's Rare Botanical Garden. Return to Chengdu.

■ **Day 5: Huanglong**  
Fly to Nine Villages Valley and transfer to Huanglong. Hundreds of pools in vivid colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposits, tumble gently down the Huanglong Valley. A diverse forest ecosystem, the area also lies close to the intersection of four flora regions: the tropical and subtropical zones of the Northern Hemisphere, Eastern Asia and Himalaya – spend the afternoon studying plant life.

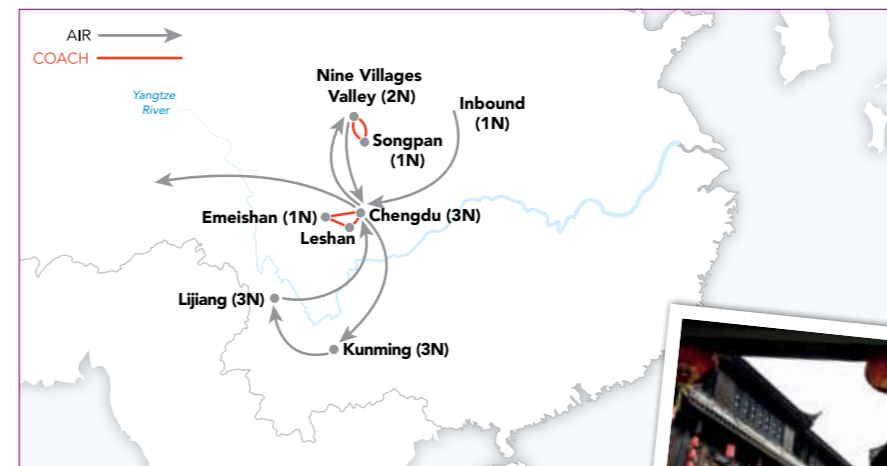
■ **Day 6: Explore the Nine Villages Valley**  
A World Biosphere Reserve of ragged peaks, sapphire lakes, abundant forest and rushing waterfalls, the Nine Villages Valley is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. It is home to over 2,500 recorded plant species and more than 150 tree species. Take a bus to the far end of Rize Valley to explore the primeval forest – a rich stretch of virgin forest full of untamed flora and fauna. Hike back through the valley passing the park's many vivid lakes, admiring the spectacular sights, and plant life en route.

■ **Day 7: Nine Villages Valley**  
Return to the Nine Villages Valley to continue absorbing the wonderful sights. Enjoy the breathtaking views from Long Lake, high at the head of the valley, and admire Five Coloured Pool, renowned for having the most varied and intense colours of all the park's lakes. Drive to Songpan, where there is time to explore.

■ **Day 8: Fly to Kunming**  
Transfer to the airport for your flight to Kunming via Chengdu.

## NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: LEO

Seeing thousands of endemic plants in the wild – on mountains and along the beautiful valleys will be dazzling for your eyes.



▲ STONE FOREST

■ **Day 9: Kunming Botanical Gardens**  
Spend the morning discovering the fascinating species of the Kunming Botanical Gardens, which has a particular focus on flora that is endemic to Yunnan province. The rest of the day is free to spend at your leisure – Kunming, the capital of Yunnan, is a laidback city that is lovely to explore.

■ **Day 10: The Stone Forest**  
Meander through the formations of the UNESCO-listed Stone Forest, where towering limestone pillars stand treelike in a fascinating illusion of petrified woodland. After lunch drive to the Western Hills to relish the lovely lake and evergreen forest scenery.

■ **Day 11: Lijiang**  
Fly from Kunming to Lijiang. The quintessential Chinese 'old town', Lijiang's old quarter is a jumble of cobbled streets, precarious wooden buildings and rustic stone bridges – in short, a delightful place to aimlessly wander. Spend a free afternoon doing just that.

■ **Day 12: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**  
Today we follow in the footsteps of famous botanist Joseph Rock. Visit Spruce Meadow, beautiful pastureland on Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, reached by a spectacular cable car journey. Discover the fascinating Baisha village, where the local Naxi people live much as they did 500 years ago during the Ming Dynasty, before taking some time to explore around the Baishui area. Visit Yufeng Temple en route back to the hotel.



▲ BAISHA VILLAGE

■ **Day 13: Ganghoba Valley**  
Explore the mysterious Ganghoba Valley where there is a wealth of majestic mountain scenery and diverse flora to enjoy.

■ **Day 14: Chengdu**  
Fly to Chengdu. This afternoon visit the lively Jinli Street and in the evening, enjoy a performance of Sichuan Opera.

■ **Day 15: Fly Chengdu to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



## Stopover in Hong Kong 3 nights from £290pp

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.

## RHS GARDEN TOUR

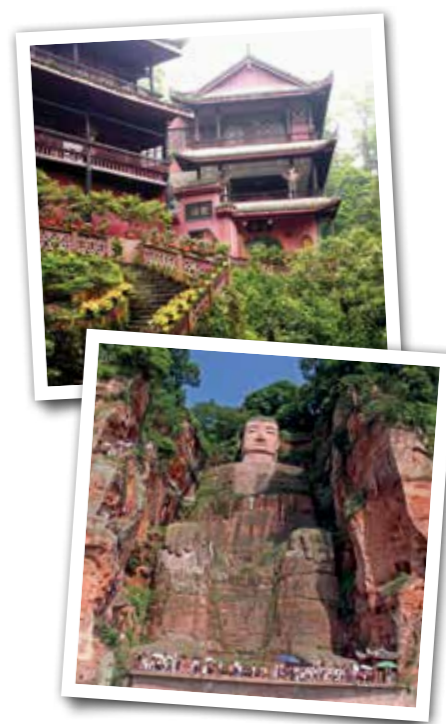
- 15 Days from
- Per person **£4,990**
- Fully inclusive from UK
- Active

RHS Garden Holidays  
PROUDLY OPERATED BY WENDY WU TOURS

2015 DEPART THU - RETURN THU		
01 Oct - 15 Oct	RHS SPECIALIST HOST	£4,990
Flight and supplement information		
Based on London Heathrow departures		
■ Flight upgrades available on request		
■ Land only from £4,350 (Chengdu - Chengdu)		
■ Single room from £1,340		
■ Tipping paid locally US\$80		
Price includes:		
■ International flights and current taxes		
■ Domestic transportation		
■ Accommodation		
■ All meals		
■ Touring with guides and entrance fees		
■ Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders		

## Hosted by RHS Horticulturalists

We are proud to have designed our RHS Garden Tours in conjunction with some of the world's leading horticulturalists. Two of the RHS' most distinguished horticulturalists are excited to join you on this departure of Plant Seekers, and will guide you through China's diverse and world renowned plant life. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to learn first hand from the RHS about one of the most important botanical centres in the world.





**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
BRUCE**

The highlight of this trip is the wonderful Chenshan Botanical Gardens. There are abundant species here, about 9000, so we are able to enjoy different kinds of plants from all over the world.



▲ HANGZHOU BOTANICAL GARDENS

# China's Mountains & Gardens

Discover the horticultural highlights of eastern China, from the endemic botanical richness of the spectacular mountain landscapes of Lushan and Huangshan to the ancient, classical gardens of charming Suzhou plus exploration of the magnificent Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden

- **Tour Chenshan Botanical Gardens**
- **Classical Chinese gardens in Suzhou**
- **Breathtaking Huangshan**
- **Spectacular Lushan**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Shanghai**  
Fly overnight from the UK to Shanghai. Tonight, get to know your fellow garden enthusiasts at a welcome reception with your RHS hosts.

■ **Day 3: Chenshan Botanical Garden**  
Spend the day exploring the Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden with a private guide. Covering 200 hectares and packed with over 9,000 species, Chenshan is comprehensive and beautifully landscaped. This evening view the glittering city of Shanghai from the waters of the Huangpu River – the best way to really appreciate the juxtaposition of the charming colonial architecture of the Bund and the futuristic skyline of Pudong.

■ **Days 4-5: Suzhou's ancient gardens**  
Drive to the charming Garden City of Suzhou is renowned for its historic gardens. Over the next two days you will visit four paramount examples of classical Chinese garden design – the Humble Administrator's Garden, Master of the Nets Garden, Lingering Garden and Lion Forest Garden. As well as being exquisite and elegant these historical 'Mountain and Water' gardens perfectly demonstrate the importance of harmony and natural beauty in Chinese culture. There'll also be a relaxed cruise on the thousand year old Grand Canal on the first evening.

■ **Day 6: Travel to Hangzhou**  
This morning is free for you to spend as you wish – Suzhou has more than 50 classical gardens as well as a quaint old centre and plenty of traditional waterside architecture to explore. Travel to the imperial city of Hangzhou, set in the midst of a lush agricultural region.

■ **Day 7: Explore Hangzhou**  
Enjoy a morning exploring the diverse flora of the Hangzhou Botanical Garden before taking part in a tasting of locally-grown tea. In the afternoon, stroll around the legendary West Lake which exudes old-world oriental charm with banks draped with willow trees and dotted with old pagodas. Visit the Lakeshore Garden and where you may see peach trees, lotus and osmanthus.

■ **Day 8: Travel to Tunxi**  
This morning is free for personal exploration of Hangzhou – there are plenty of interesting sites to visit. Travel to Tunxi, the gateway to the Huangshan Scenic Area.



▲ HUANGSHAN

■ **Day 9: Mt Huang**  
Much celebrated, and an endless source of inspiration in Chinese art and literature, Mt Huang (Yellow Mountain) is a granite massif of towering peaks crowned with swirling mists. Spend the day soaking up the breathtaking sights and take the Yungu cable car up to the summit, where we will spend the night. There are plenty of fern, moss and tree species to examine.

■ **Day 10: Mt Huang sunrise**  
Get up early for a magical sunrise over the jagged peaks and continue to savour the spectacular scenery for the rest of the morning. Travel back down the mountain by cable car and return to Tunxi.

■ **Day 11: Jingdezhen**  
Travel to the charming city of Jingdezhen, known as China's 'Porcelain Capital'. Quality ceramics have been produced here for 1,700 years, visit the museum and factory to discover more about the production process. Continue on to Lushan.

■ **Day 12: Lushan**  
Explore the Lushan Botanical Garden with an expert guide. The garden is close to the summit of Lu Mountain, a significant cradle of Chinese history and culture. Admire the views from the Wulao Peaks. The rest of the day is free to explore Lushan at your leisure.



▲ CHENSHAN BOTANICAL GARDEN

■ **Day 13: Lushan**  
Visit Lushan Flower Diameter Park; Jinxiu Valley, known for its rich ecosystems and wide variety of flowers; and the fascinating Xianren Cave. Head to the picturesque Lulin Lake and explore the plantlife of Lushan.

■ **Day 14: Fly to Shanghai**  
Take a morning flight to Shanghai. This afternoon wander around the delightful Yu Gardens.

■ **Day 15: Fly Shanghai to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



## RHS GARDEN TOUR

- 15 Days from
- Per person **£3,590**
- Fully inclusive from UK
- Active



**2015 DEPART SUN - RETURN SUN**

04 Oct - 18 Oct **RHS SPECIALIST HOST** £3,590

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £3,060 (Shanghai - Shanghai)
  - Single room from £940
  - Tipping paid locally US\$80

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

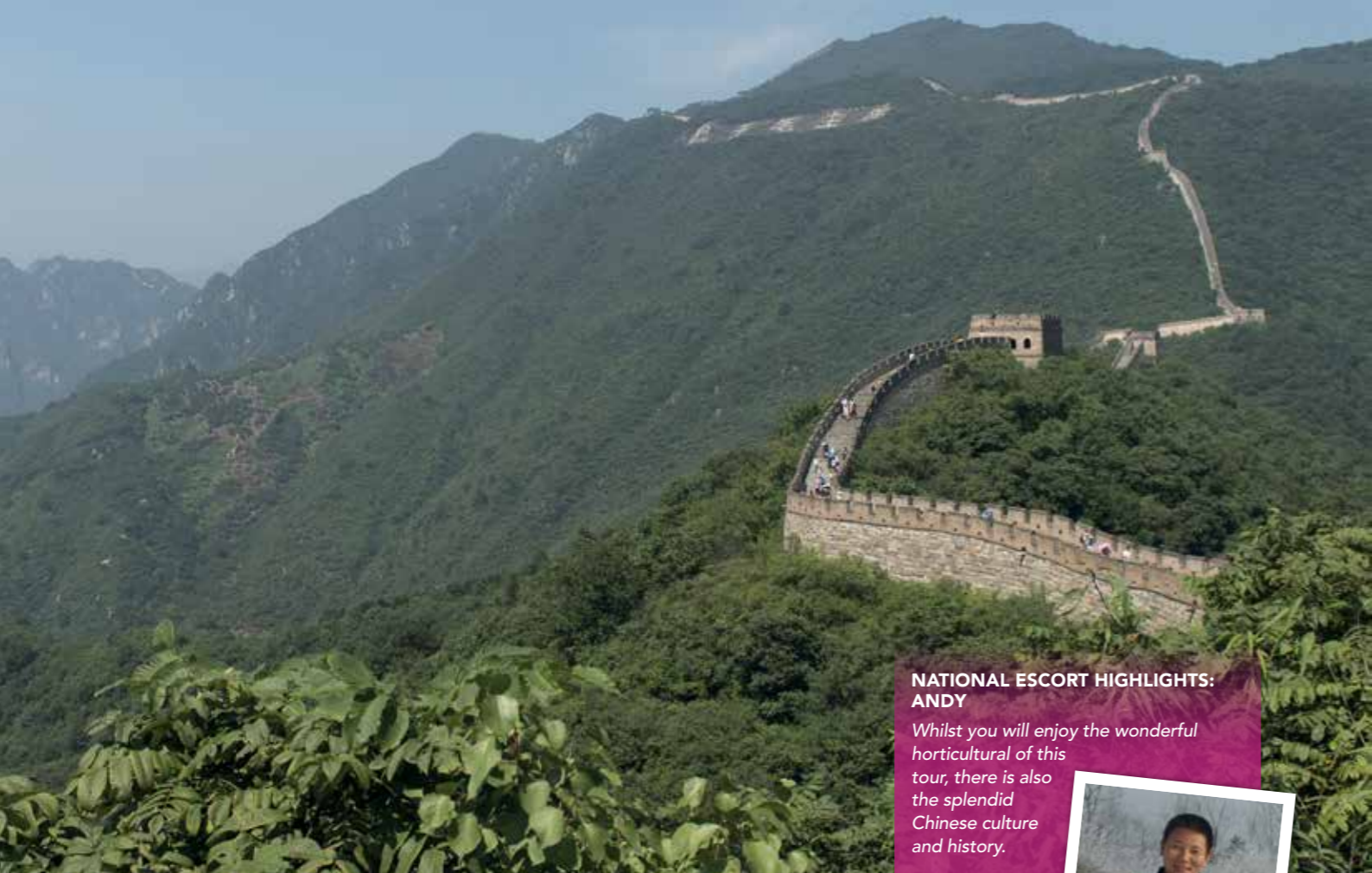
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**Stopover in Dubai**  
3 nights from £220pp

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination full of futuristic architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig a little deeper and you'll find a rich culture centred on the labyrinthine old city. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



▲ THE GREAT WALL

**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: ANDY**

Whilst you will enjoy the wonderful horticultural of this tour, there is also the splendid Chinese culture and history.



# Gardens of China

This wonderful tour is the perfect combination of China's most iconic monuments, natural sights and finest oriental and botanical gardens. Delight in a diverse range of both endemic and international species with local botanist guides

- Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors
- Beijing's landscaped gardens
- Garden City of Suzhou
- Chenshan Botanical Gardens

**Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**  
Fly overnight from the UK to Beijing, China's vibrant capital. Tonight, get to know your fellow garden enthusiasts at a welcome reception with your RHS hosts.



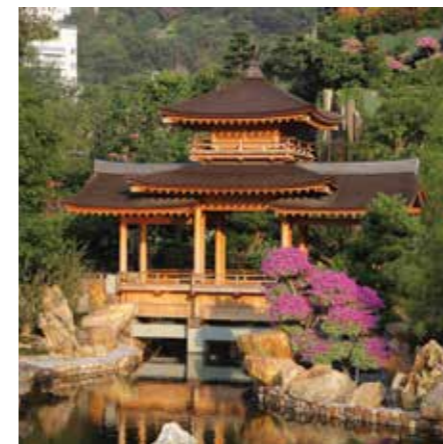
**Day 3: Beijing's gardens**  
Spend the morning wandering through the Beijing Botanical Garden with an expert guide, home to over 6,000 diverse species of plant. This evening sit down to a traditional dinner of sumptuous Peking Duck.

**Day 4: Great Wall**  
Appreciate the sheer magnificence of the Great Wall with a morning walk along this incredible structure at the Mutianyu section. Later, savour an afternoon in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace, a masterpiece of Chinese landscape garden design based on the principles of harmony and natural beauty. Round off the day with a Chinese acrobatic show.

**Day 5: Imperial Beijing**  
Stroll across the vast Tiananmen Square and into the splendour of the Forbidden City. Within you'll find a thousand rooms and plenty of fascinating treasures plus the Emperor's Garden, a classical imperial garden. Soak up the harmonious ambience of the grand, buddhist Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape.

**Day 6: Xian**  
Fly to Xian the capital of Shaanxi province. An illustrious and age-old city, Xian is one of the four great ancient capitals of China and starting point of the fabled Silk Road with a history spanning 3,100 years. Visit the Hanyangling Mausoleum, the joint tomb of Emperor Jing, the fourth emperor of the Western Han Dynasty, and Empress Wang. Enjoy the fascinating museum. Tuck into a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a Tang Dynasty dance show.

**Day 7: Terracotta Warriors**  
The Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors since their fortuitous discovery in the 1970s. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of life-like warriors. En route visit a pomegranate farm with an introductory talk to get an insight into the local agriculture. Savour an afternoon of relaxation at the Huaqing Hot Springs.



▲ SUZHOU

**Day 8: Xian**  
Explore the Xian Botanical Gardens accompanied by an expert guide. Take an afternoon stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls that enclose Xian's old town. Explore the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter and the many Islamic food stalls. Find tranquillity in the gardens of the Grand Mosque.

**Day 9: Fly to Guilin**  
Fly to the charming city of Guilin. Join an expert guide to explore the Guilin Botanical Gardens, where you'll find over 3,000 species of subtropical plant life.

**Day 10: Li River Cruise**  
Take a relaxed cruise along Li River to the charming village of Yangshuo. Around every river bend is a view to take your breath away as jagged karst peaks loom over rural scenes of lush greenery, grazing buffalo and local fishermen. Take a leisurely saunter around Yangshuo before visiting a farming family to learn a little about the local agriculture. Return to Guilin.

**Day 11: Longji Rice Terraces**  
Travel to Longji to view the extensive rice terraces that cover the hillsides creating intricate patterns as they tumble down to the river below. Enjoy hiking through the village of Ping An to a look out point, studying plant life en route, and enjoy the amazing views of the rice terraces from above. Those who do not wish to walk can spend their time exploring the rice fields of Ping An Village.



▲ THE LI RIVER

**Day 12: Travel to Suzhou**  
Fly to Shanghai and transfer to the beautiful garden city of Suzhou. Take a relaxed cruise on the thousand year old Grand Canal and visit a local silk mill where you'll be able to follow the age-old silk production process from the cultivation of silkworms up to creating the final piece. The rest of the day is free for you to spend at your leisure.

**Day 13: Suzhou's gardens**  
The charming Garden City of Suzhou is renowned for its historic gardens. Visit two paramount examples of classical Chinese garden design – the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Master of the Nets Garden. As well as being exquisite, these historical 'Mountain and Water' gardens highlight the importance of harmony and natural beauty in Chinese culture.

**Day 14: Shanghai Botanical Garden**  
Spend the day exploring the Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden with a private guided tour. This is the largest municipal botanic garden in China and is renowned for its penjing garden as well as its diverse array of Chinese plants. This afternoon wander around the delightful Yu Gardens before viewing the city from the water with a cruise on the Huangpu River.

**Day 15: Fly Shanghai to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

## RHS GARDEN TOUR

- 15 Days from
- Per person **£3,390**
- Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate



2015 DEPART SUN - RETURN SUN	
31 May - 14 June	£3,390
30 Aug - 13 Sep	£3,490
20 Sep - 04 Oct	£3,490

**Flight and supplement information**  
Based on London Heathrow departures  
 ■ Flight upgrades available on request  
 ■ Land only from £2,860 (Beijing - Shanghai)  
 ■ Single room from £490  
 ■ Tipping paid locally US\$80

**Price includes:**  
 ■ International flights and current taxes  
 ■ Domestic transportation  
 ■ Accommodation  
 ■ All meals  
 ■ Touring with guides and entrance fees  
 ■ Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders



### Stopover in the Emirates 4 nights from £370pp

See the sights of the ultimate in ultra-modern urban destinations, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, combined with the cultural treasures of Sharjah where museums, art galleries and lively souqs abound.  
See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.



# Japan Tours

To witness a snow-capped Mount Fuji, see Geisha in Kyoto and walk through buzzing and colourful Tokyo is to merely scratch the surface of this cultural and natural utopia. Discover the ancient to the ultra-modern – and the people which make Japan so unique.





**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
MR MASA HATTORI**

Many think of Tokyo as a large modern city but I really enjoy its traditional side. Wander around the tranquil Hakarikyū gardens or visit the Asakusa district to see the impressive Sensoji Temple.



▲ ITSUKUSHIMA

# Essential Japan NEW

Immerse yourself in the unique and fascinating culture of Japan. Encompassing the essentials with futuristic cities, imperial heritage and magnificent nature, this tour incorporates a number of experiences that give your holiday a truly authentic edge

- **Vibrant Tokyo**
- **Iconic Mount Fuji**
- **Charming Kyoto**
- **Hiroshima and Miyajima**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Tokyo**  
Fly overnight to the dazzling metropolis of Tokyo, Japan's capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Discover Tokyo**  
Tokyo is the ultimate 24-hour city, but look behind its frantic, high-tech frontage and you'll find plenty of tranquil backstreets and old temples to explore. Today's city tour starts on the observation deck of the 634-metre Skytree, the world's tallest tower, before seeking out the tranquillity of the ancient Buddhist Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest. Glimpse Tokyo's historical heritage at the Edo-Tokyo Museum and explore Tokyo's Imperial Palace. This evening take a relaxed dinner cruise on the Sumida River for some excellent city vistas.

■ **Day 4: Meiji Shrine**  
The city tour continues with a relaxed morning wandering around the classical landscapes of the Hamarikyu Garden. Explore the huge evergreen forest that encompasses the Shinto Meiji Shrine. The afternoon is free for you to explore as you wish.

■ **Day 5: Fuji Five Lakes**  
Journey through the foothills of the iconic Mt Fuji to its base where we find the Fuji Five Lakes. The region is spectacular with the calm waters of the five lakes, formed by past eruptions, reflecting Fuji's picture-perfect cone. Continue to Oshino Hakkai, a scenic area of ponds full of crystal clear spring water created by Fuji's melting snow, where there is also a small museum. Later, try your hand at making traditional Japanese soba noodles before tucking in to your creations.

■ **Day 6: Mount Fuji**  
Ascend 2,000 metres up Mt Fuji to the 5th Station where, with its perfectly conical peak looming overhead, you can take in the breath-taking views over the Fuji Five Lakes below. Returning to the beautiful Five Lakes region, explore Iyashi no Sato, a former farming village on the shores of Lake Saiko. Destroyed by a landslide in 1966, the remaining thatched-roofed houses of this old Japanese village have been transformed into an open-air museum and craft village, exhibiting plenty of local, and traditional handicrafts.

■ **Day 7: Bullet train to Kyoto**  
Transfer to the station at Mishima. Sit back and relax in the cool comfort of a bullet train as you speed across the country to Kyoto. An enchanting city, Kyoto was capital for a thousand years; today it is the legacy of ancient Japan, full of tranquil temples, silk-clad geisha and sublime gardens. The geisha is both an intriguing and integral part of Japanese history – enjoy afternoon tea with either a maiko (apprentice geisha) or geisha at a typical teahouse.



▲ SUMIDA RIVER



▲ MOUNT FUJI

■ **Day 8: Explore Kyoto**  
Spend the day soaking up some of Kyoto's delightful sights, starting at Kinkakuji Temple, known as the Golden Pavilion, where there is an archetypal Muromachi period garden. Continue to Ryoanji, a Zen temple with an excellent example of a 'dry landscape' garden, and Kiyomizu Temple, a 17th century Buddhist temple. This afternoon visit a restored wooden townhouse to learn the traditional Japanese arts of origami and calligraphy, witness Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) and enjoy a tea ceremony.

■ **Day 9: Hiroshima and Miyajima**  
Take a day trip by bullet train to Hiroshima and Miyajima. Hiroshima needs no introduction. The city today is vibrant and modern with a forward-thinking, sunny outlook. Find a moment to reflect at the Peace Memorial Park and Museum. Hopping on a ferry, make the short trip to the holy island of Miyajima. Visit the Itsukushima Shrine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Japan's most recognisable, it rises majestically out of the waters of the inland sea.



■ **Day 10: Himeji**  
Jump on the bullet train again today for a day visit to Himeji. The feudal era fort, one of the most impressive in Japan, towers over the city recognisable as the backdrop to several major films. Appreciate its turbulent past before strolling around Koko-en, the Edo-style gardens just across the castle moat.

■ **Day 11: Fly Osaka to UK**  
Transfer to Osaka and fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

## JAPAN TOUR

- 11 Days from
- Per person **£3,990**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- » Moderate

2015 DEPART MON - RETURN THU			
30 Mar - 09 Apr	£3,990	28 Sep - 08 Oct	£3,990
14 Sep - 24 Sep	£3,990	12 Oct - 22 Oct	£3,990

2016 DEPART MON - RETURN THU			
21 Mar - 31 Mar	£3,990	12 Sep - 22 Sep	£4,190
28 Mar - 07 Apr	£4,090	26 Sep - 06 Oct	£4,190
04 Apr - 14 Apr	£4,190	03 Oct - 13 Oct	£4,190

**Flight and supplement information**  
Based on London Heathrow departures  
 ■ Flight upgrades available on request  
 ■ Land only from £3,330 (Tokyo - Osaka)  
 ■ Single room from £520

- Price includes:**
- International flights and current taxes
  - Domestic transportation
  - Accommodation
  - All meals
  - Touring with guides and entrance fees

### Enjoy as a Private Tour

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



### Stopover in Dubai 2 nights from £220pp

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination full of futuristic architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig a little deeper and you'll find a rich culture centred on the labyrinthine old city. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



▲ MOUNT FUJI

# Discover Japan

Japan is a country of captivating contrasts, where ancient gods rub shoulders with modern technology, skyscrapers give way to lush paddy fields and bustling crowds disperse into the tranquillity of a classical garden. This tour is the perfect introduction to this fascinating archipelago

- Futuristic Tokyo
- Breathtaking Mount Fuji
- Charming Kyoto
- Vibrant Osaka

**Days 1-2: Fly to Tokyo**  
Fly overnight to the dazzling metropolis of Tokyo, Japan's capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

**Day 3: Tokyo city tour**  
Tokyo is the ultimate 24-hour city, but look behind its frantic, high-tech frontage and you'll find plenty of tranquil backstreets and old temples to explore. Today's city tour starts at the 634-metre Skytree, the world's tallest tower, before seeking out the tranquillity of the Sensoji Temple and the delightful landscapes of Hamarikyu Gardens. This evening, cruise the Sumida River for some excellent city vistas.

**Day 4: Mount Fuji**  
Travel to Hakone, the gateway to Japan's most iconic landmark – Mount Fuji. Heading up to the 5th Station, take in the breathtaking views over the Fuji Five Lakes below. A boat trip on Ashi Lake gives spectacular retrospective panoramas back over Fuji before venturing up Mount Owakudani by cable car to see the many sulphuric springs, which are hot enough to hard-boil an egg!

**Day 5: Matsumoto Castle**  
Explore the formidable 16th-century Matsumoto Castle before travelling to Takayama, nestled high in the mountainous Hida region.

**Day 6: Explore Takayama**  
Takayama has an air of old-world Japan, particularly around its wonderfully preserved old town. Browse the local handicrafts and fresh produce at the Miyagawa morning market, wander past some of the lovely traditional houses and visit several of the excellent local museums – Takayama Festival Floats Museum, Kusakabe Folk Museum and Takayama Jinya.

**Day 7: Shirakawago & Kanazawa**  
Get a glimpse of rural Japan at UNESCO-listed Shirakawago which is famous for its farmhouses built in the unique architectural style, gassho-zukuri. Continue to Kanazawa and visit the Nomura Samurai House, followed by a stroll through the old district.



## NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: AYAKO KIYONO

Kyoto is the heart of Japan and the place I love most. Whether it's seeing the Golden Pavilion in the morning light or learning what zen is all about at Ryoanji Rock Garden, Kyoto gives you a glimpse of the true Japan!



▲ TODAIJI TEMPLE, NARA

**Day 8: Kenroku-en Garden**  
Meander through the beautiful Kenroku-en Garden, one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan, before viewing the excellent art collection of the Kanazawa 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, which only exhibits works produced since 1980. Board the Thunderbird Express train to Kyoto, the former capital city.

**Day 9: Explore Kyoto**  
Kyoto was a capital for a thousand years; today it is the legacy of ancient Japan, full of tranquil temples, silk-clad geisha and sublime gardens. Visits today include Nijo Castle and one of the many Zen temples where we have the opportunity to take part in a meditation class with a Buddhist priest. Continue on to Kinkakuji Temple, known as the Golden Pavilion, before learning the arts of origami and calligraphy, witnessing Ikebana and enjoying a tea ceremony at a restored wooden townhouse. The day ends with a look around Kiyomizu Temple and a stroll through Higashiyama District.

**Day 10: Discover Nara**  
Japan's capital before Kyoto, Nara is a relaxed and charming town virtually untouched by the ravages of modernity. Home to many archetypal pieces of early art and architecture, visits here will include Todaiji Temple, Isuein Gardens and a stroll through Nara Park. Return to Kyoto, stopping en route at Fushimi Inari Shrine remarkable for its 10,000 torii (shrine gates).



▲ OSAKA CASTLE

**Day 11: Koya-San**  
The holy mountain of Koya-San is home to a cluster of over a hundred monasteries nestled in a valley enclosed by peaks said to resemble a lotus flower. Full of atmosphere, savour the tranquillity and spectacular views as you discover Kongobunji Temple and the Garan Temple complex before wandering around Okunoin – a vast cemetery of 200,000 stupas. Follow the paths to the mausoleum of Kobo Daishi via the mystical Hall of Lanterns where 10,000 oil lamps are kept permanently alight. Spend the night at the Buddhist Shukubo Temple Lodge and enjoy a traditional Shojin Ryori vegetarian dinner.

**Day 12: Travel to Osaka**  
Rising early, witness the haunting chanted prayers of the monks followed by a traditional breakfast. Travel to Osaka, Japan's third largest city, where there'll be time to explore Osaka Castle and take a cruise along the Yodogawa River. This evening stroll down Dotonbori, a restaurant mecca, before tucking into a farewell dinner.

**Day 13: Fly Osaka to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

## JAPAN TOUR

- 13 Days from
- Per person **£4,390**
- Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate

2015 DEPART WED - RETURN MON			
01 Apr - 13 Apr	£4,490	30 Sep - 12 Oct	£4,490
15 Apr - 27 Apr	£4,490	14 Oct - 26 Oct	£4,490
16 Sep - 28 Sep	£4,390		

2016 DEPART WED - RETURN MON			
23 Mar - 04 Apr	£4,490	20 Apr - 02 May	£4,690
30 Mar - 11 Apr	£4,590	14 Sep - 26 Sep	£4,690
06 Apr - 18 Apr	£4,690	28 Sep - 10 Oct	£4,690
13 Apr - 25 Apr	£4,690	12 Oct - 24 Oct	£4,690

- Flight and supplement information**
- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £3,730 (Tokyo - Osaka)
  - Single room from £690

- Price includes:**
- International flights and current taxes
  - Domestic transportation
  - Accommodation
  - All meals
  - Touring with guides and entrance fees

## Enjoy as a Private Tour

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
  - Looking for something more independent and individual?
  - Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?
- Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



## Stopover in Hong Kong 3 nights from £290pp

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



▲ SNOW MONKEYS

# Wonders of Japan NEW

From the luminous, cutting edge metropolis of Tokyo and the age-old traditions of Kyoto to the snow-cloaked majesty of Mount Fuji, this private tour allows you to experience the highlights of Japan's wonderful sights during the magical winter months

- **Futuristic Tokyo**
- **Iconic Mount Fuji**
- **Japanese Snow Monkeys**
- **Atmospheric Kyoto**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Tokyo**  
Fly overnight to the dazzling metropolis of Tokyo, Japan's capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Tokyo city tour**  
Tokyo is the ultimate 24-hour city, but look behind its frantic, high-tech frontage and you'll find plenty of tranquil backstreets and old temples to explore. Today's city tour starts on the observation deck of the 634-metre Skytree, the world's tallest tower. Seek out the tranquillity of the ancient Buddhist Sensoji Temple, Tokyo's oldest, and the delightful landscapes of Hamarikyu Gardens. This evening take a relaxed cruise on the Sumida River for some excellent city vistas. (B,L)

■ **Day 4: Mount Fuji**  
Travel to Hakone, the gateway to Japan's most iconic landmark – Mount Fuji. Heading into the Hakone National Park, take a boat trip on Ashi Lake. From the water the panoramas of the country's highest mountain and its surroundings are spectacular. Stroll around Hakone-en Gardens before taking a cable car up Mount Komagatake for even more breathtaking views of the surrounding area. Return to Tokyo. (B,L)

■ **Day 5: Travel to Yudanaka**  
Take the super-fast, super-efficient bullet train through snow-cloaked landscapes to the city of Nagano, which hosted the Winter Olympics in 1998. In Nagano visit the famous Buddhist Zenkoji Temple, founded in the 7th century and home to what is thought to be the first Buddhist statue ever brought to Japan. Afterwards, journey deeper into the northern peaks of the Japanese Alps to stay in the onsen resort town of Yudanaka. (B,D)

■ **Day 6: Yudanaka Onsen**  
Enjoy the sights of the hot spring resort of Yudanaka. The highlight is observing the delightful Japanese Snow Monkeys soaking in the natural hot pools of the Jigokudani Monkey Park. The monkeys completely disregard their human watchers so you can spend hours watching them play, and even swim, in the pools. (B,D)

■ **Day 7: Bullet train to Kyoto**  
Travel by train back to Nagano, then enjoy a thrilling but comfortable ride on the famous bullet train as you speed through the countryside to Kyoto. The enchanting city of Kyoto, nicknamed the 'City of Ten Thousand Shrines', was capital for more than a thousand years; today it is a well-preserved legacy of ancient Japan, full of tranquil temples, silk-clad geisha and sublime gardens. (B)



▲ TOKYO



▲ KYOTO KINKAKUJI

■ **Day 8: Kyoto's hidden treasures**  
Your local guide will lead you on an in-depth tour of this delightful city, that plays host to 17 UNESCO World Heritage sites, over 1,600 Buddhist temples and 400 Shinto shrines. As imperial capital for such a long period of time, Kyoto perfectly illustrates the development of Japanese architectural styles. You'll track down Kyoto's hidden treasures – sacred shrines tucked behind shopping arcades, traditional teahouses between modern boutiques and elegant geishas scurrying amongst the narrow backstreets. (B)

■ **Day 9: Explore Kyoto and more**  
There is plenty more to see in Kyoto and you can use today to independently discover more of the city. For those who might want to take their explorations farther afield, a rail pass will be provided enabling you to take the day to visit one of the nearby cities. Choose Nara, also a former capital full of wonderful heritage; the attractive hillside city of Kobe; Osaka, known for its excellent gastronomy; or the friendly and laid-back Hiroshima. (B)

■ **Day 10: Travel to Tokyo**  
From Kyoto jump back on the bullet train and return to Shinjuku in Tokyo. Enjoy one last evening in this high-tech metropolis. (B)

■ **Day 11: Fly Tokyo to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)



## Stopover in the Emirates 3 nights from £370pp

See the sights of the ultimate in ultra-modern urban destinations, Dubai and Abu Dhabi, combined with the cultural treasures of Sharjah where museums, art galleries and lively souqs abound.  
See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.



## JAPAN PRIVATE TOUR

- 11 Days from
- Per person **£2,990**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Moderate

### 2015 DEPARTURES BETWEEN

03 Jan - 20 Mar **£2,990** | 02 Dec - 19 Dec **£3,190**

### 2016 DEPARTURES BETWEEN

03 Jan - 20 Mar **£3,190** | 02 Dec - 19 Dec **£3,390**

### Flight and supplement information

Tour departs any day subject to availability. 3★ and 4★ hotels used.  
Upgrade to 4★ hotels from £3,390 or to 5★ hotels from £3,990

- Single room from £390
- Land only from £2,380 (Tokyo - Tokyo)
- Sole passenger supplement from £590

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Selected touring with guides and entrance fees

### TAILOR MADE FOR YOU

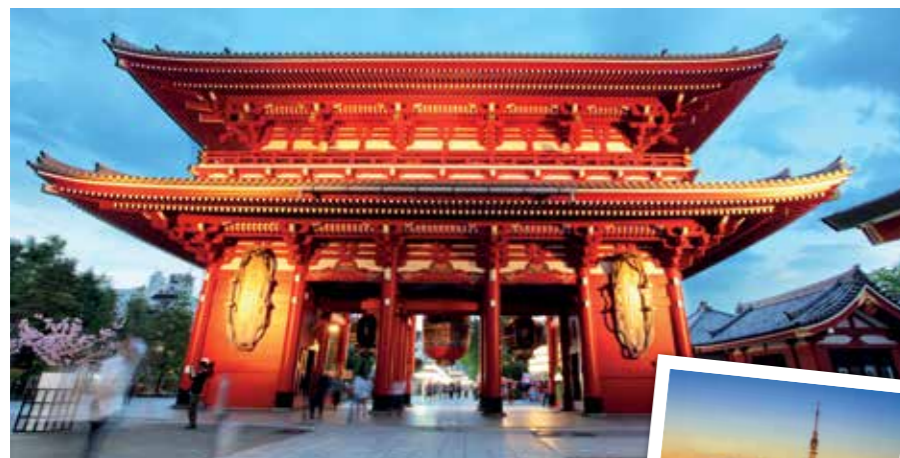
We have designed this private itinerary to give you maximum flexibility. We will provide you with rail passes and transport passes, but you decide what time of the day you want to travel, depending on your specific needs. We will provide a private guide in both Tokyo and Kyoto, but ultimately you will decide where you want to go and what you want to see.

### This includes

- ✓ All international flights and taxes
- ✓ Airport transfers
- ✓ Tokyo Transport Pass
- ✓ 7 nights accommodation in hotel (Tokyo and Kyoto)
- ✓ 2 nights accommodation in traditional Ryokan (Yudanaka)
- ✓ Breakfast each morning
- ✓ 2 evening meals (Yudanaka)
- ✓ 8 hour private guide service in Tokyo (including Sumida boat cruise, entrance to Hamarikyu gardens, Tokyo Skytree and Lunch)
- ✓ Full Day tour to Mt Fuji and Hakone (from Tokyo)
- ✓ 7 Day Japan Rail Pass
- ✓ Return train tickets Nagano Station to Yudanaka Station

# Tailormade Japan

For more intrepid explorers these short stays will allow you to create a bespoke itinerary utilising Japan's unsurpassed transport network to discover this amazing country



## Tokyo

**3** Nights from **£550** per person

Tokyo is a futuristic frontage of unyielding steel and dazzling lights backed by revered heritage and traditions found amongst quiet backstreets and tranquil temples. Sophisticated and innovative, the world's largest metropolis is more of a constellation of cities than a colossal one – each district has a distinct, exciting character.

**Day 1: Arrive Tokyo**  
Transfer independently from the airport to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure.

**Day 2: Explore Tokyo**  
Joined by a local guide, utilise the super-efficient metro system to explore the city. Starting early at the Meiji Shrine, visit Harajuku, Omotesando and Ginza districts; wander the East Gardens of the Imperial Palace; and Asakusa. (B)

**Day 3: Sushi making**  
Explore the array of fruit, vegetables and fresh fish at Tsukiji Fish Market. With the ingredients you've purchased visit a typical Japanese home to learn the art of sushi making. (B,L)

**Day 4: Depart Tokyo**  
Check out of your hotel. (B)

### Price includes

- Meals as stated
- Accommodation & transport pass
- Touring with local guides

- 3 ☆ **Asakusa Blue Wave** from £550pp
  - 4 ☆ **Asakusa View** from £900pp
  - 5 ☆ **Palace Hotel** from £1,200pp
- Additional flight costs may apply.*



## Mt Fuji & Hakone

**1** Night from **£360** per person

Long revered by author, artist and proverb alike, Mt Fuji's perfectly symmetrical cone is the iconic image of Japan. Both Mt Fuji and the spa resort of Hakone are part of the spectacular Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, the perfect spot to soak up some of Japan's most magnificent scenery, just 100 km from Tokyo.

**Day 1: Tokyo to Hakone**  
You will be met at your hotel by a local guide for this full day adventure. Travel by subway to meet the coach which will take you up to Mt Fuji's 5th station (weather permitting) for spectacular views over the Fuji Five Lakes. Hop on the Hakone Sky Gondola for 360 degree views of the volcanic Hakone Mountains before visiting the Owakudani Boiling Valley and taking a cruise around Lake Ashi. Check into your onsen hotel and spend the evening relaxing in Hakone's famous hot springs. (L,D)

**Day 2: Hakone to Tokyo**  
This morning is free before using your transport pass to make your way to the train station to take the Shinkansen (bullet train) back to Tokyo. (B)

### Price includes

- Meals as stated
- Accommodation & transportation
- Touring with local guides

- 3 ☆ **Chinoyu Honkan** from £360ppp
- Additional flight costs may apply.*



## Kyoto

**3** Nights from **£690** per person

A fascinating old city with modern day trimmings, Kyoto was the imperial capital for over a millenium and much celebrated for it. Thought of as Japan's most beautiful city, with an elegant and unsurpassed dignity. Kyoto's ultra rich cultural heritage consists of an exquisite collection of majestic palaces and beautiful temples and shrines dedicated to ancient deities all set in peaceful pockets of the city.

**Day 1: Arrive Kyoto**  
Transfer independently from the airport to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure.

**Day 2: Explore Kyoto**  
Joined by a local guide head out into the city to explore using the local bus system. Visit Nijo Castle, Kinkakuji and the Daitoku-ji Zen Temple complex before a stroll through the Nishiki covered food markets. Collect ingredients for your Japanese cooking class which will take place in a traditional wooden house. Once you've eaten your creations, make your own way back to the hotel. (B,D)

**Day 3: Discover Nara**  
Take the train to Nara with your local guide for a full day tour that includes visits to Todaiji Temple and Kasuga Taisha. Return to Kyoto and explore the Kiyomizu Temple. (B)

**Day 4: Depart Kyoto**  
Check out of your hotel. (B)

### Price includes

- Meals as stated
- Accommodation & transportation
- Touring with local guides

- 3 ☆ **Citadines Kyoto Karasuma Gojo** from £690pp
  - 4 ☆ **ANA Crowne Plaza** from £790pp
  - 5 ☆ **Hotel Granvia** from £1,090pp
- Additional flight costs may apply.*



## Hiroshima & Miyajima

**2** Nights from **£690** per person

Hiroshima is a city that needs little introduction, famous for one moment in history that changed the world forever. Today you'll find a modern, vibrant metropolis with a laidback vibe and sunny temperament. The holy island of Miyajima is home to the Itsukushima Shrine, one of Japan's most recognisable sights, which rises majestically out of the waters of the inland sea.

**Day 1: Kyoto to Hiroshima**  
Make your way to Kyoto's Shinkansen station to board a bullet train to Hiroshima. You will be met by your local guide on arrival and begin your half-day tour, exploring by local transport. Take a moment to reflect at the Peace Park and Museum, stroll through the beautiful Shukkeien Gardens and see the reconstructed Hiroshima Castle. At lunch sample the city's famous savoury pancake, okonomiyaki. (L)

**Day 2: Hiroshima to Miyajima**  
Take a short tram and ferry ride, accompanied by your local guide, to the island of Miyajima. Visit the Itsukushima Shrine, one of the most photographed sights in Japan, and explore the island. You can also take the cable car up to the peak for magnificent views over the surrounding islands. Return to Hiroshima by ferry and tram. (B)

**Day 3: Hiroshima to Kyoto**  
Check out and make your way to the station for a return bullet train to Kyoto. (B)

### Price includes

- Meals as stated
- Accommodation & transportation
- Touring with local guides

- 3 ☆ **Hotel Active Hiroshima** from £690pp
  - 4 ☆ **Oriental Hotel** from £790pp
  - 5 ☆ **ANA Crowne Plaza** from £940pp
- Additional flight costs may apply.*

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# Go Beyond

Experience the incredible diversity and beauty of Asia – from the relaxing beaches of Vietnam to the stark beauty of Mongolia and the breathtaking Himalayas.

Expect unique and compelling landscapes, colourful traditions, and always a warm welcome.

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**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: JAY**

Experience eastern culture and history in China before delving into the beautiful scenery of Vietnam. Come home with a better understanding of the eastern world.



▲ GREAT WALL OF CHINA

# Eastern Voyager NEW

From the Great Wall, Warriors and pandas in China to Halong Bay, Saigon and the Mekong Delta in Vietnam, this whistle stop adventure is the perfect introduction to the historical, cultural and natural treasures of both of these fascinating countries

- **The Great Wall**
- **The adorable pandas**
- **Junk cruise on Halong Bay**
- **Cooking in Hoi An**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing**  
Fly overnight to Beijing, China's historical capital.

■ **Day 3: Imperial Beijing**  
We begin in Beijing's symbolic heart with a stroll across Tiananmen Square, flanked by imposing government buildings and the mausoleum of Chairman Mao. At the head of the square the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City is a monument to dynasties past. Entering through the Gate of Supreme Harmony, you will find a complex of a thousand rooms and many imperial treasures. Later soak up the harmonious ambience of the Temple of Heaven, an orderly oasis in a bustling urban landscape. This evening sit down to a traditional dinner of Peking Duck.

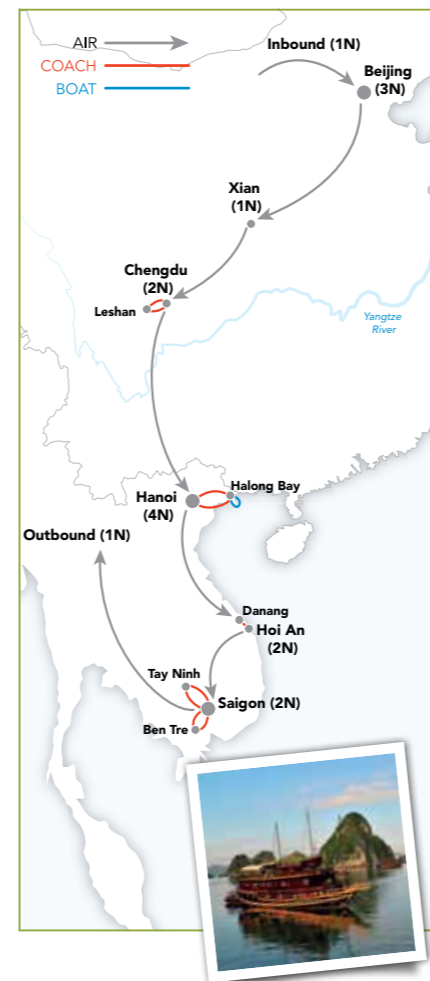
■ **Day 4: The Great Wall**  
This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Stretching thousands of miles from the Yellow Sea to the Gobi Desert, over all sorts of dramatic landscapes, it is one of the world's most impressive feats of engineering. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate both the wall itself and the magnificent scenery that it crosses. Savour a relaxed afternoon in the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional gardens and admire exquisite architecture. Jade is revered throughout China, it is said to bring fortune and prosperity to those who wear it. Visit a Jade Museum, where you will be able to buy a small handcrafted piece. A Chinese acrobatic show rounds off the day.

■ **Day 5: Fly to Xian**  
Fly to Xian. An illustrious and age-old city, Xian is one of the four great ancient capitals of China. Take a leisurely stroll on the beautifully preserved 14th century city walls, before a delicious feast of traditional Shui Jiao dumplings and a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing.

■ **Day 6: Terracotta Warriors**  
The Terracotta Army of China's first Emperor Qin Shi Huang has long intrigued visitors. Spend the morning viewing the enigmatic ranks of warriors. Visit the workshop of the craftsmen who recreate Terracotta Warriors in the style of their ancient counterparts. Watch the skilled production process and buy a souvenir warrior to take home. Fly to Chengdu.

■ **Day 7: Grand Buddha of Leshan**  
Travel to Leshan to visit the Grand Buddha which, at 71-metres, is the world's largest stone-carved Buddhist monument. A short boat trip on the river will give even better views of the statue. Returning to Chengdu, there will be a stop at the riverside village of Huanglongxi, where cobbled streets and rickety wooden buildings retain the charms of the Qing Dynasty. Sample a delicious Sichuan meal this evening.

■ **Day 8: Giant Pandas**  
A visit to Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre allows you to see and learn about China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Fly to Hanoi. (B)



▲ GIANT PANDA, CHENGDU



▲ HOI AN

■ **Day 9: Day of leisure in Hanoi**  
Hanoi brings all the charms of the past with all the buzz of the future in one fast-paced yet refined city. Spend the day exploring the city yourself or take some time to relax before the Vietnam part of the adventure begins. (B,D)

■ **Day 10: Explore Hanoi**  
Explore the Ho Chi Minh Quarter, walk past Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum, the Stilt House, One Pillar Pagoda and the Temple of Literature. There'll also be time to wander the streets of the atmospheric old quarter.

■ **Day 11: Halong Bay Junk cruise**  
Take a traditional Junk cruise amongst karst peaks on the tranquil green waters of Halong Bay. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and a vision of awe-inspiring beauty, it isn't hard to see why it is one of Vietnam's most popular destinations. A fresh seafood meal is included during your voyage.

■ **Day 12: Cookery class, Hoi An**  
Fly to Danang and transfer to the UNESCO-listed Hoi An, with a stop at the Marble Mountains en route. This evening, get hands on in a cookery class.

■ **Day 13: Discover Hoi An**  
Take a morning walking tour of charming Hoi An. A wonderfully laidback and wilfully traditional place, the streets are a delight to wander – visit the elaborate Japanese Bridge, a local temple and the market. The afternoon is at leisure to explore, or relax in a riverside café.

■ **Day 14: Discover Saigon**  
Fly to Saigon. Seamlessly blending past and present, Saigon is both a treasure trove of cultural sights and the city that is driving Vietnam towards a brighter future. Visit the Notre Dame Cathedral and Central Post Office – legacies of a colonial past; the Reunification Palace; and chilling War Remnants Museum. Finish up browsing through the lively Ben Thanh Market.

■ **Days 15: Mekong Delta**  
Travel to Ben Tre to take a cruise on the Mekong. Called the 'Rice Basket of Vietnam', get a glimpse of daily life on the Mekong Delta. Take a sampan ride through the palm lined canals, visit a coconut garden and drift past stilt houses, and fish farms. Return to Saigon.

■ **Days 16-17: Cu Chi Tunnels and Tay Ninh**  
Get to grips with the horrors of guerrilla warfare at the astonishing Cu Chi Tunnels before travelling to Tay Ninh to attend the noon service at the Cao Dai Temple, one of the most striking structures in Asia. Return to Saigon. Later, fly overnight to the UK, arriving home the following day.

**Please note:**  
On this Eastern Voyager adventure you are embarking on two separate tours. On departure from Chengdu you will wave farewell to one group and meet a new one the day after you arrive in Hanoi.

**GO BEYOND**

- 17 Days from
- Per person **£2,990**
- ✓ Inclusive from UK
- Comfortable

**2015 DEPART FRI - RETURN SUN**

04 Sep - 20 Sep	£3,390	20 Nov - 06 Dec	£2,990
11 Sep - 27 Sep	£3,390		

**2016 DEPART FRI - RETURN SUN**

26 Feb - 13 Mar	£3,190	02 Sep - 18 Sep	£3,590
01 Apr - 17 Apr	£3,390	09 Sep - 25 Sep	£3,590
15 Apr - 01 May	£3,390	21 Oct - 06 Nov	£3,490
06 May - 22 May	£3,390	18 Nov - 04 Dec	£3,190

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £2,390 (Beijing - Saigon)
  - Single room from £490
  - Tipping paid locally US\$103

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals except days 8 and 9
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders



**Stopover in Hong Kong**  
3 nights from **£290pp**

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.





▲ HOI AN

# Treasures of Vietnam & China

This epic tour effortlessly blends the captivating charms of Vietnam with the extensive and fascinating history of China. Explore Saigon, cruise Halong Bay, view adorable pandas, marvel at the Terracotta Warriors and walk along the Great Wall on one memorable adventure

- The verdant Mekong Delta
- Enchanting Hoi An
- Halong Bay
- Pandas, the Wall and Warriors

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Saigon**  
Fly overnight to Saigon, Vietnam's most evocative and largest city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Discover Saigon**  
Seamlessly blending past and present, Saigon is both a treasure trove of cultural sights and the city that is driving Vietnam towards a brighter future. Visit the Notre Dame Cathedral and Central Post Office – legacies of a colonial past, the Reunification Palace and Ben Thanh Market. Also visit the War Remnants Museum, Cholon, and Thien Hau Pagoda.

■ **Day 4: Mekong Delta Cruise**  
Travel to Ben Tre to take a cruise on the Mekong. Called the 'Rice Basket of Vietnam', get a glimpse of daily life on the Mekong Delta. Return to Saigon.

■ **Day 5: Cu Chi Tunnels and Tay Ninh**  
Get to grips with the horrors of guerrilla warfare at the astonishing Cu Chi Tunnels before travelling to Tay Ninh to attend the noon service at the Cao Dai Temple, one of the most striking structures in Asia. Return to Saigon.

■ **Days 6-7: Historic Hoi An**  
Fly to Danang and transfer to the UNESCO-listed Hoi An, with a stop at the Marble Mountains en route. Take a walking tour of this charming town. A wonderfully laidback and wilfully traditional place, the streets are a delight to wander – visit an old merchant's house, the elaborate Japanese Bridge and the market. The next day, visit Tra Que Village.

■ **Days 8-9: Imperial Hue**  
Drive to Hue. Take a cyclo ride up to the imposing imperial citadel to explore. The next day, voyage along the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda before travelling to An Hien House. Finally visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Royal Tomb of Minh Mang.

■ **Day 10: Fly to Hanoi**  
Fly to the graceful and exotic capital city of Hanoi, dubbed the 'Paris on the Orient'. Walk to Hoan Kiem Lake and watch the Water Puppets.

■ **Day 11: Halong Bay Junk cruise**  
Take a traditional Junk cruise amongst karst peaks on the tranquil green waters of Halong Bay. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and a vision of awe-inspiring beauty, it isn't hard to see why it is one of Vietnam's most popular destinations. A fresh seafood meal is included during your voyage.

## NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: CHRISTIAN

You can enjoy the beautiful scenery of two countries on this one tour, experiencing different cultures and getting a closer look into local people's lives.



▲ HALONG BAY



▲ GREAT WALL OF CHINA

### ■ Day 12: Discover Hanoi

Hanoi brings all the charms of the past with all the buzz of the future in one fast-paced yet refined city. Explore the Ho Chi Minh Quarter, and walk past Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum, the Stilt House and One Pillar Pagoda. Also visit the Temple of Literature and Hanoi's charming Old Quarter.

### ■ Days 13-14: Pandas

Fly to Chengdu where, this evening, you can sample the delicious Sichuan cuisine. Next day, visit Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre where you can see China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Later, fly to Guilin.

### ■ Day 15: Reed Flute Cave

This morning, visit Mount Diecai, also known as 'Folded Brocade Hill'. Later, see the colourful formations of the Reed Flute Cave.

### ■ Day 16-17: Li River Cruise & Yangshuo

Take a relaxed cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. The next morning, explore this unique rural location before taking the afternoon at leisure. In the evening, see the famous cormorant fishermen.

### ■ Days 18-19: Terracotta Warriors

Travel to Guilin and fly to Xian. This evening indulge in traditional Shui Jiao dumplings followed by a performance of Tang Dynasty dancing. The Terracotta Army of Emperor Qin Shi Huang has intrigued visitors for years. Spend the next morning viewing the enigmatic ranks before strolling on Xian's city walls.

### ■ Day 20: Discover Xian

Admire the fascinating relics of the Shaanxi Museum and take a stroll through the atmospheric alleys of the Muslim Quarter. Board an overnight train to Beijing.

### ■ Days 21-22: Imperial Beijing

Arriving in Beijing, savour the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace and sample the local delicacy – Peking Duck. The next day stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City where you'll find a complex full of imperial treasures. Also visit the lovely Temple of Heaven.

### ■ Day 23: The Great Wall

This morning is dedicated to China's most iconic sight – the Great Wall. Taking a walk on this incredible structure is the best way to appreciate its sheer magnificence. Round off the day with a Chinese acrobatic show.

### ■ Days 24-26: Fly to Shanghai

Fly to Shanghai and spend the following days exploring this cosmopolitan city. Visits include the Yu Gardens, the 'old town', Shanghai Museum and the colonial architecture of the Bund. Also discover modern Pudong and explore the restored Xintiandi area with its unique 1920s Shikumen buildings. Dine on traditional Shanghai cuisine and take a cruise on the panoramic Huangpu River.

### ■ Day 27: Fly Shanghai to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

## GO BEYOND

27 Days from

Per person **£3,990**

✓ Fully inclusive from UK

» Moderate

### 2015 DEPART FRI - RETURN WED

27 Mar - 22 Apr	£4,190	04 Sep - 30 Sep	£4,090
17 Apr - 13 May	£4,190	11 Sep - 07 Oct	£4,190
01 May - 27 May	£3,990	18 Sep - 14 Oct	£4,190
22 May - 17 Jun	£3,990	16 Oct - 11 Nov	£4,190
21 Aug - 16 Sep	£4,090		

### 2016 DEPART FRI - RETURN WED

11 Mar - 06 Apr	£4,390	19 Aug - 14 Sep	£4,290
25 Mar - 20 Apr	£4,390	02 Sep - 28 Sep	£4,290
15 Apr - 11 May	£4,390	09 Sep - 05 Oct	£4,390
06 May - 01 Jun	£4,190	16 Sep - 12 Oct	£4,390
20 May - 15 Jun	£4,190	14 Oct - 09 Nov	£4,390

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,440 (Saigon - Shanghai)
- Single room from £660
- Tipping paid locally US\$140

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders



### Stopover in Hong Kong & Macau 3 nights from £500pp

Combine the lively and sophisticated city of Hong Kong with the glittering Macau, a former Portuguese colony, where Mediterranean influences and Las Vegas-esque glitz collide.

See pages 126-129.  
Additional flight costs may apply.





▲ TAIPEI

# Taiwan Uncovered NEW

Delightfully undiscovered, Taiwan delivers dramatic landscapes, dynamic cities, sensational cuisine and a heady cultural melting pot of Chinese, Japanese, Western and indigenous influences. Leave any pre-conceived ideas at home and get ready to be surprised by this rewarding destination

- **Vibrant Taipei**
- **Gorgeous Sun Moon Lake**
- **Tainan's fascinating heritage**
- **Dramatic Taroko Gorge**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Taipei**  
Fly overnight to Taipei, Taiwan's flourishing capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

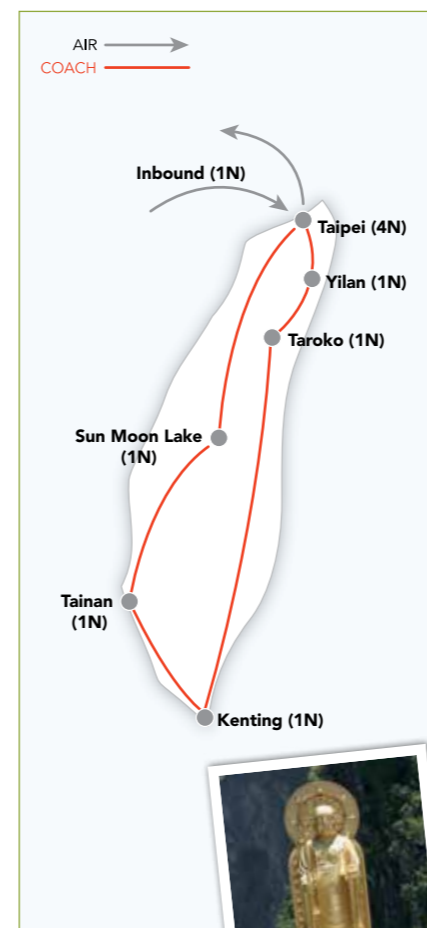
■ **Day 3: Explore Taipei**  
In the 1980s city planners reinvented Taipei into one of the world's most liveable cities. Nestled in a basin surrounded by mountains, Taipei is a dynamic and exciting place, packed with the upmarket and ultramodern as well as a wonderfully rich heritage. Spend the day exploring with visits to the Martyrs' Shrine, the National Palace Museum, the observation deck on the 91st floor of Taipei 101, Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall, Lungshan Temple and the fashionable district of Ximending.

■ **Day 4: Sun Moon Lake**  
Spend a day in the mesmerising landscapes of Sun Moon Lake. Surrounded by tiers of verdant mountainside at the heart of the island, the emerald green waters, peaceful temples and pavilions provide a tranquil and idyllic escape from the city. A relaxed itinerary includes visits to Wen Wu Temple, Tse-En Pagoda and a lake cruise.

■ **Day 5: Historic Tainan**  
Travel from Sun Moon Lake to the historic city of Tainan to discover its wealth of ancient monuments and temples. Tainan was once Taiwan's capital and was also the final outpost of China's Ming dynasty in the 17th century. Whilst here we will explore the oldest part of the city seeing the Confucius Temple, Anping Fort and the former Tait & Co Merchant House. This evening wander the atmospheric old streets and sample some delicious local food.

■ **Day 6: Kenting National Park**  
Depart Tainan for Kenting National Park which sits right on Taiwan's southern tip. Best known for its glorious beaches, the park also has a diverse range of landscapes, from steep cliffs to grassy meadows. Stop at Maopitou, Kenting Forest Park and Eluanbi Lighthouse which, at the southernmost tip of Taiwan, offers panoramas over the Pacific Ocean and Taiwan Strait.

■ **Day 7: Travel to Taroko**  
Enjoy more of the spectacular sights of Kenting with visits to Lungpan Park and the Jialeshuei Scenic area before making our way along the east coast. Discover the unique geographical landscapes of Siaooyeliou, the rocky coastline of Sansientai, the Caves of the Eight Immortals and Bachi Scenic Lookout. Arrive in Taroko where the evening will be at leisure.



▲ KENTING NATIONAL PARK



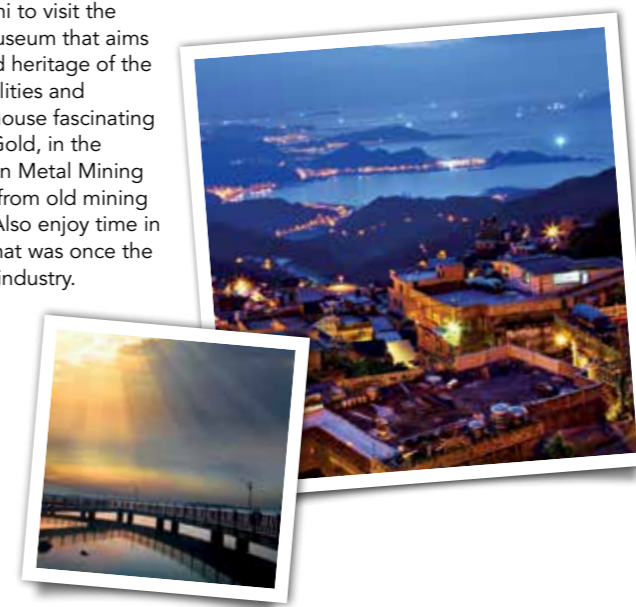
▲ SUN MOON LAKE

■ **Day 8: Discover Taroko**  
The Taroko National Park encompasses a diverse range of landscapes including sea cliffs and mountain peaks. This is where you'll find some of Taiwan's most breathtaking scenery, particularly in the magnificent Taroko Gorge where waterfalls rain down from above and lush greenery fights through cracks in the sheer walls. Continue along the highway to the resort of Yilan, where you can spend some time soaking in the thermal waters of the hot springs.

■ **Day 9: Gold Ecological Park**  
Transfer over to the north coast and the mountain town of Jinguashi to visit the Gold Ecological Park, a museum that aims to preserve the culture and heritage of the area. Here, old mining facilities and traditional buildings now house fascinating exhibits. The Museum of Gold, in the former offices of the Taiwan Metal Mining Corp, displays everything from old mining equipment to gold itself. Also enjoy time in Chiufen, a quaint village that was once the centre of the gold mining industry. Continue to Taipei.

■ **Day 10: Yangmingshan**  
Today begins at Yangmingshan National Park, northeast from Taipei, a scenic area that is famous for its verdant landscapes and volcanic vents. Also discover Beitou, a district of Taipei known for its hot springs where there will be a visit to the Hot Springs Museum. Continue to Tamsui for a stroll along the historical Old Street. Enjoy a final evening in vibrant Taipei.

■ **Day 11: Fly Taipei to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



## GO BEYOND

- 11 Days from
- Per person **£2,990**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Comfortable

### 2015 DEPART MON - RETURN FRI

16 Mar - 27 Mar	£2,990	26 Oct - 06 Nov	£2,990
28 Sep - 09 Oct	£2,990		

### 2016 DEPART MON - RETURN FRI

22 Feb - 04 Mar	£3,290	26 Sep - 07 Oct	£3,290
14 Mar - 25 Mar	£3,290	24 Oct - 04 Nov	£3,290

### Flight and supplement information

#### Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,370 (Taipei - Taipei)
- Single room from £990
- Tipping paid locally US\$88

#### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees

### Enjoy as a Private Tour

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary



- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



### Stopover in Hong Kong 3 nights from £290pp

A sophisticated and lively destination, enjoy the sights and sounds of Hong Kong, where Chinese character underlays colonial charms and the gastronomy is varied and delicious. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.





**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
ALLISON JO**

*My favourite things to show visitors are the beautiful imperial palaces of Seoul, they take my breath away every time, and the amazing local foods – especially at Gwangjang Market.*



▲ ANAPJI POND, GYEONGJU

# South Korea Explorer NEW

Emerging from turmoil as a one of the continent's leading lights, South Korea is a classic combination of old Asia and new, pushing for the future whilst revering the past. This tour offers the ideal overview of a delightful nation combining its buzzing cities, enthralling heritage and tranquil nature

- **Flamboyant Seoul**
- **Korean Demilitarized Zone**
- **Breath-taking National Parks**
- **Extraordinary Gyeongju**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Seoul**  
Fly overnight to Seoul, South Korea's vibrant capital. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Explore Seoul**  
Seoul is a round-the-clock city – dynamic, hectic, ambitious and, perhaps surprisingly, traditional. Today's city tour includes visits to the grand Gyeongbokgung Palace and within its grounds, the fascinating National Folk Museum. We'll also visit Insadonggil, a mecca of second-hand book stores, crafts and antiques as well as the Confucian Jongmyo Royal Shrine, before finishing off with the giddy heights and spectacular views of the N Seoul Tower.

■ **Day 4: The DMZ**  
The Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a buffer between North and South Korea, is a chilling but essential visit to learn about the tumultuous relationship between these two countries. You'll also see, and enter, the Third Tunnel of Aggression, which passes 73-metres under the border, the Bridge of Freedom, DMZ Exhibition Hall, the Dora Observatory and Dorasan station. Returning to Seoul, this afternoon will be spent in the Gwangjang Market browsing the mind-boggling array of goods, as well as visiting the Dongdaemun History and Cultural Park, home to traditional buildings, relics, ruins and cultural facilities.

■ **Day 5: Mount Seorak National Park**  
Take a full day getting back to nature in Mount Seorak National Park where craggy granite bluffs, dense forest and lush greenery reign supreme. Take a cable car up into the peaks to admire the breath-taking views from the ruins of Gwongeumseong Fortress before a pleasant, and gentle, hike to charming Biseonda. Later travel to Sokcho.

■ **Day 6: Hahoe Folk Village**  
Journey to Andong to visit Hahoe Village settled on the banks of the Nakdong River. Here you'll step back in time to the Joseon Dynasty amongst lovely, traditional architecture. Glimpse old folk traditions that are slowly being lost. The journey continues to Daegu.

■ **Day 7: Mount Gaya National Park**  
Today begins in the incredible natural surroundings of Mount Gaya National Park. The park is home to one of Korea's Three Jewel temples, Haeinsa, a World Heritage listed building that houses the Tripitaka Korea, a comprehensive set of Buddhist scriptures carved onto more than 80,000 printing blocks, which has been here since 1398. Transfer to the historical, coastal city of Gyeongju, known as 'the museum without walls'.



▲ SEOUL



▲ SEORAK NATIONAL PARK

■ **Day 8: Explore historical Gyeongju**  
Gyeongju was the ancient capital of the Silla Kingdom which ruled part of the Korean peninsula from the year 57BC to 935AD. The city is a living museum, home to a staggering amount of heritage sights, from tombs and temples to pagodas and palaces. We start at the National Museum to marvel at its wonderful collection of Silla relics. Continue to Tumuli Park and its many royal tombs and on to the 7th-century Cheomseongdae Observatory, the oldest surviving observatory in East Asia. We visit Anapji Pond and finally Bulguksa Temple.

■ **Day 9: Explore Busan**  
Travel to the port city of Busan. Visit the Haedong Yonggungsa Temple, located in an enchanting spot right on the shoreline of the Korea Strait, where grottos and shrines have taken over caves and cliff sides. Explore Dongbaekseom Island, a delightful spot covered in dongbaek trees and evergreens; and feel the sand between your toes on the urban Haeundae beach, the most famous beach in South Korea.

■ **Day 10: Seoul by bullet train**  
Ride to the top of the Busan Tower for panoramic morning views over the city. Venture into the organised chaos of Jagalchi Fish Market, the largest seafood market in Korea, to inspect the morning catch. Return to Seoul in sleek style on the bullet train.

■ **Day 11: Seoul free day**  
Today is a free day in Seoul to spend as you wish – there are plenty of sights in this enthralling city, or you can use the time to relax before you return home if you'd prefer. (B)

■ **Day 12: Fly Seoul to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



**GO BEYOND**

- 12 Days from
- Per person **£3,190**
- ✓ Inclusive from UK
- » Moderate

**2015 DEPART WED - RETURN SUN**

25 Mar - 05 Apr	£3,190	04 Nov - 15 Nov	£3,190
30 Sep - 11 Oct	£3,190		

**2016 DEPART WED - RETURN SUN**

23 Mar - 03 Apr	£3,490	28 Sep - 09 Oct	£3,390
13 Apr - 24 Apr	£3,390	02 Nov - 13 Nov	£3,390

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £2,580 (Seoul - Seoul)
  - Single room from £790
  - Tipping paid locally US\$96

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals except day 11
- Touring with guides and entrance fees

**Enjoy as a Private Tour**

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



**Extend in Jeju Island  
3 nights from £840pp**

A volcanic paradise in the Straits of Korea, Jeju Island is nicknamed 'Island of the Gods' with gorgeous scenery, swaying palm trees and white coral sand beaches.

Includes flights from Seoul.



▲ HIMALAYAS

# Himalayan Adventure

Embark on a journey of extremes, striking across the starkly beautiful landscapes of Tibet, on the roof of the world, before descending into the verdant and chaotic valleys of Nepal under the ever watchful gaze of the mighty Himalayas

- Chengdu's Giant Pandas
- Mystical Lhasa
- Mighty Mount Everest
- Legendary Kathmandu

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Chengdu**  
Fly overnight to Chengdu. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Pandas and the Grand Buddha**  
A visit to Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre allows you to see China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. In the afternoon visit the historical Wuhou Temple and stroll along Jinli Street with its traditional architecture and shops selling local products.

■ **Day 4: Fly to Lhasa**  
Fly to Lhasa. The rest of the day is free to acclimatise.

■ **Day 5: Explore Lhasa**  
Lhasa is a modern city but among the old streets at its core you'll feel a million miles from the modern world. Venture inside Jokhang Temple where queues of people worship in the flickering light of yak butter candles. Wander around the Barkhor with traditionally dressed locals and prostrating pilgrims. There will also be a visit to Sera Monastery, a renowned seat of Buddhist learning.

■ **Day 6: The Potala Palace**  
The Potala Palace is an architectural wonder towering over the city. The winter palace of the Dalai Lama, it houses thousands of rooms filled with old treasures.

■ **Day 7: Shigatse**  
Travel across Tibet's stark plains to Shigatse, Tibet's second city and the traditional home of the Panchen Lama. En route stop at the pleasant town of Gyantse to visit the famous kumbum. This fascinating monastery is home to the largest chörten in Tibet – climb it for a succession of colourful mural-filled chapels and wonderful views.

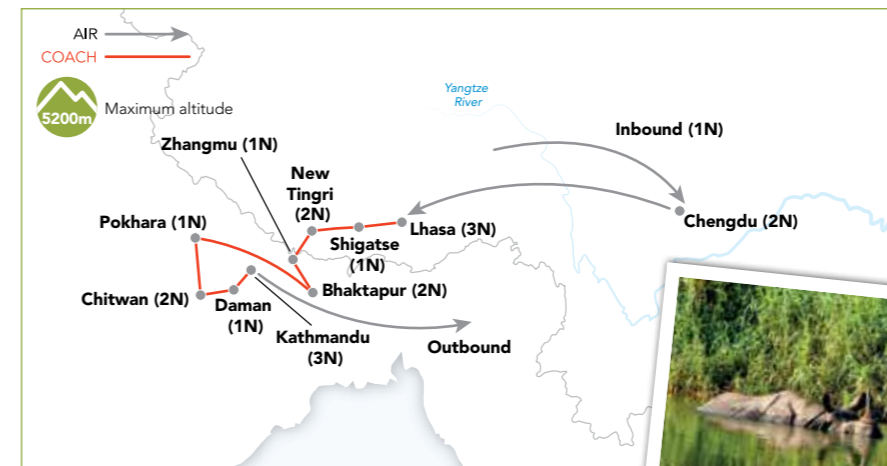
■ **Day 8: Tashilhunpo Monastery**  
Visit Tashilhunpo Monastery, the hilltop complex that is the monastic seat of the Panchen Lama. From here drive to New Tingri admiring awe-inspiring Himalayan views.

■ **Day 9: Everest Base Camp**  
Rise early to make the final assault across the Gue La to Pasum and Rongbuk, a monastic village festooned in colourful prayer flags. Continue to Everest Base Camp, situated under the gaze of Everest's north face, from where the views of the world's highest peak are unsurpassed (weather permitting).

■ **Day 10: Zhangmu**  
Another early rise to break for the Tibet-Nepal border via Nyalam and Zhangmu. Winding through steep gorges the descent from Tibet's stark plateau to the subtropical colours and chaos of Nepal is striking.

## NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: LINK

Reaching the Mt Everest base camp was one of my dreams and has given me some unforgettable memories, so I can't wait to share the experience with my groups.



▲ DURBAR SQUARE

### ■ Day 11: Into Nepal

A stroll across the Friendship Bridge and you are in Nepal. With the Himalayas still looming on the horizon transfer to the old town of Dhulikhel. Here you will see the traditional Nuwari houses with a chance to browse in the colourful local market. Continue to Bhaktapur.

### ■ Day 12: Bhaktapur

The Kathmandu valley's best preserved medieval city, Bhaktapur's cobblestone streets just cry out to be aimlessly wandered – you'll stumble across many old courtyards, temples and artisans busy at their craft. Visit the Golden Gate at the Palace of 55 Windows and tour the Temple of Changu Narayan. Cruise on Phewa Lake.

### ■ Day 13: Pokhara

Travel to Pokhara. The town sits on the verdant banks of Phewa Lake with virtually uninterrupted views of the majestic Annapurna and Manaslu ranges.

### ■ Days 14-15: Chitwan National Park

Get up early to admire the sunrise and enjoy the serenity of a Hindu temple before departing for Chitwan National Park. Rich in wildlife Chitwan is home to populations of the endangered Bengal Tiger and One-horned Rhinoceros. Attend a briefing from a naturalist guide before embarking on an afternoon safari. The next day will be a full day to enjoy a comprehensive programme of activities which includes elephant bathing, safaris, jungle walks and bird watching.



▲ POTALA PALACE, LHASA

### ■ Day 16: Daman

Drive to Daman which has one of the most spectacular outlooks over the Himalayan range of anywhere in Nepal. The afternoon is free for you to stroll about the town, visit the viewing tower and soak in the staggering views.

### ■ Day 17: Travel to Kathmandu

A spectacular sunrise awaits if you feel like rising early. Depart Daman to travel to the legendary Kathmandu. The afternoon is free for independent explorations.

### ■ Day 18: Patan

Essentially a suburb of Kathmandu, Patan was once the capital of an independent kingdom, something that is noticeable in its distinctiveness. See the UNESCO World Heritage Royal Palace and the sights of Patan's Durbar Square. Returning to Kathmandu, visit the Bodhnath Stupa and Pashupatinath Temple.

### ■ Day 19: Kathmandu

Kathmandu is a city of many layers – a modern day assault on the senses, a hub of cultural and artistic heritage and a monument to the medieval era. Today's visits include Swayambhunath Temple, Durbar Square, the Kumari Temple and Thamel Market.

### ■ Day 20: Fly Kathmandu to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

## GO BEYOND TOUR

- 20 Days from
- Per person **£3,690**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Active

2015 DEPART WED - RETURN WED			
08 Apr - 29 Apr	£3,690	23 Sep - 14 Oct	£3,790
13 May - 03 Jun	£3,690	07 Oct - 28 Oct	£3,790
09 Sep - 30 Sep	£3,790		

2016 DEPART WED - RETURN WED			
06 Apr - 27 Apr	£3,890	21 Sep - 12 Oct	£3,990
11 May - 01 Jun	£3,890	05 Oct - 26 Oct	£3,990
07 Sep - 28 Sep	£3,990		

### Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £3,110 (Chengdu - Kathmandu)
  - Single room from £760
  - Tipping paid locally US\$138

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

## Enjoy as a Private Tour

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary



- Want to travel on a different date?
- Looking for something more independent and individual?
- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

Contact us to tailor this tour exclusively for you.



## Stopover in Doha 3 nights from £340pp

Doha, the newest metropolitan player on the Persian Gulf, is a city on the verge of greatness. Perhaps more conservative than Abu Dhabi and Dubai but its exotic skyline, atmospheric souqs and pristine malls can rival both. See pages 126-129. Additional flight costs may apply.



▲ FLAMING CLIFFS, BAYANZANG

# Mongolia & the Naadam Festival

To most Mongolia is a place of mystery as remote as they come. This tour is a journey of discovery through the land of Genghis Khan, traversing the endless plains to explore sites of immeasurable natural beauty. Meet the lovely people and get involved in local festivities

- **Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar**
- **Gobi Desert**
- **Lake Khovsgol**
- **Naadam Festival**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Ulaanbaatar**  
Fly overnight to Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Days 3-4: Yolym Am**  
Fly to Dalanzadgad which sits on the edge of the legendary and inhospitable Gobi Desert. Transfer to the ger camp near Gurvansaikhan National Park for two nights. You'll spend two days immersed in natural beauty amongst jagged mountains and undulating sand dunes. We also visit the magnificent Yolym Am Gorge.

■ **Day 5: Khongoryn Els**  
Embark on a 4WD adventure to Khongoryn Els to see Mongolia's highest sand dunes. Enjoy the beauty of these stark landscapes and, for those who are feeling adventurous, climb to the top for fantastic views.

■ **Day 6: Flaming Cliffs**  
Continue exploring the magnificent landscapes of the Gobi Desert before travelling to Bayanzag. Made up of peaks and canyons in a striking fiery red and orange sandstone, the Flaming Cliffs are a spectacular sight. The area is especially important thanks to the vast number of dinosaur fossils that have been found – even the amateur eye can spot them as you wander through the canyon.

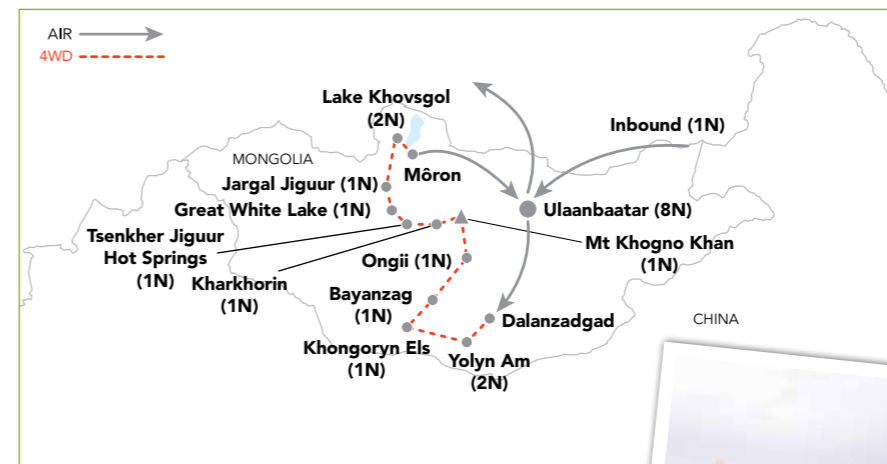
■ **Day 7: Ongiin Khiid**  
Journey to the banks of the Ongii River and view the atmospheric ruins of two monasteries – Barlim Khiid and Khutagt Khiid. Also visit Ongiin Khiid, formerly one of the largest monasteries in Mongolia.

■ **Day 8: Mt Khogno Khan**  
Spend the day exploring around the foot of the imposing Mt Khogno Khan. Set in the beautiful surroundings of a Natural Reserve, discover the remains of 17th century Uvgun Khiid Monastery whilst enjoying the resplendent nature and mountain vistas.

■ **Day 9: Kharkhorin**  
Mongolia's former capital Kharkhorin is located in a spot picked by Genghis Khan in 1220. However, the city remained Mongolia's political, cultural and economic hub for only 40 years before power was transferred to Khanbalik – now modern day Beijing. After the collapse of the Mongolian Empire, the city was abandoned to the elements and destroyed by roving soldiers until its remains were used to build Erdene Zuu Khiid, Mongolia's first Buddhist monastery – which we will visit today.

## NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS: MARAT KARIMOV

*I am honoured to be able to guide guests through, and share my knowledge of, this fascinating land – the Naadam Festival is a unique and once-in-a-lifetime experience!*



▲ GREAT WHITE LAKE

■ **Day 10: Tsenkher Jiguur Hot Springs**  
Lounge in the volcanic hot springs of Tsenkher Jiguur surrounded by verdant scenery.

■ **Day 11: Great White Lake**  
Enjoy the scenery of Great White Lake set amongst the extinct volcanoes of the Khangai mountain range. The extinct Khorgo Volcano sits watching over the lake – hike up to the crater for wonderful views, or walk along the lake shore where there are excellent opportunities for bird and wildlife spotting.

■ **Day 12: Jargal Jiguur**  
Spend a little more time lingering in the spectacular panoramas of Great White Lake before driving to Jargal Jiguur ger camp.

■ **Days 13-14: Lake Khovsgol**  
The extraordinary Lake Khovsgol is known as the Blue Pearl of Mongolia, a vast body of water enveloped in dense pine forests and backed by soaring mountains. Spend two days surrounded by nature in this national park, enjoying the flora, fauna and incredible scenery.

■ **Day 15: Moron to Ulaanbaatar**  
Travel through more delightful scenery to the city of Moron, where you will have the afternoon at leisure. Fly to Ulaanbaatar.



▲ GOBI DESERT

■ **Days 16-18: Naadam Festival**  
Spend three days enjoying the revelry of the traditional Naadam Festival. Dating from the times of Genghis Khan the 'three manly games' have locals taking part in Mongolian wrestling, horse racing and archery. There's also a wealth of pageantry and ceremony in a festival of raucous fun that you'll see nowhere else in the world.

■ **Day 19: Terelj National Park**  
Soak up the beautiful alpine scenery of the Terelj National Park. Visit Turtle Rock and take an easy hike up to the Aryabal Monastery, perched on the mountainside. Visit a local family to get a glimpse of their nomadic lifestyle. Spend the night in a ger camp.

■ **Day 20: Travel to Ulaanbaatar**  
Drive back to Ulaanbaatar, visiting the Genghis Khan statue complex en route.

■ **Day 21: Explore Ulaanbaatar**  
Ulaanbaatar is, perhaps surprisingly, an enormous city. Lively and bustling you will have to dig deep to find a tranquil spot, but they do exist. Explore Sukhbaatar Square, the Museum of Mongolian History and the Museum of Natural History. Also visit Gandan Monastery the largest and most important in Mongolia.

■ **Day 22: Ulaanbaatar**  
Enjoy a leisurely day visiting Zaisan Memorial Hill and Buddha's Park. This evening sit down to a traditional folklore performance.

■ **Day 23: Ulaanbaatar to the UK**  
Fly to the UK arriving the same or following day.

## GO BEYOND TOUR

- 23 Days from
- Per person **£4,990**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Active

### 2015 DEPART MON - RETURN TUE

26 Jun - 18 Jul £4,990

### 2016 DEPART MON - RETURN TUE

25 Jun - 17 Jul £4,990

### Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £4,390 (Ulaanbaatar - Ulaanbaatar)
  - Single room from £620
  - Tipping paid locally US\$100

### Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees





**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
RUSTAM NAZAROV**

*I was born Bukhara in Uzbekistan, on the Silk Road. It has been my dream to be a tour guide since childhood, and my mission is to explore every single undiscovered corner of my country and spread it all over the world.*



▲ REGISTAN, SAMARKAND

# Road to Samarkand

**Journey through the heart of Central Asia crossing starkly beautiful deserts and magnificent mountain landscapes. Discover ancient cities full of intricate Islamic architecture, thriving bazaars and a mystical old-world atmosphere, all inextricably linked with the legends of the Silk Road**

- Remote Kashgar
- Historic Khiva
- Holy city of Bukhara
- Mystical Samarkand

**Days 1-2: Fly to Urumqi**

Fly overnight to the city of Urumqi. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

**Day 3: Tian Chi Heavenly Lake**

Escape to the tranquillity of Tian Chi Heavenly Lake, a crystal clear body of water formed in a crater atop Baekdu Mountain. In the evening fly to the remote city of Kashgar, the heart of the Silk Road.

**Day 4: Explore Kashgar**

Its skyline punctured by minarets, Kashgar feels a million miles from anywhere. Although now a modern city, the sights and sounds of Kashgar's streets have remained unchanged for millennia, as it remains as much of an integral trading post as in its Silk Road heyday. Today's visits include Abakh Hoja Tomb, Id Kah Mosque and the atmospheric alleyways around Id Kah Square.

**Day 5: Tian Shan Mountains**

Cross the border into Kyrgyzstan through the magnificent Tian Shan Heavenly Mountains. Making our way over the Torugart Pass to Naryn, stop en route at the 15th century Caravanserai at Tash Rabat.

**Days 6-7: Kochkor Village and Karakol**

Drive to Kochkor Village and enjoy a traditional lunch at a ger camp. The next day continue to Karakol via Bokonbayevo village on the shores of Lake Issyk Kul, where the locals will demonstrate their skill at hunting with eagles.

**Days 8-9: Explore Karakol**

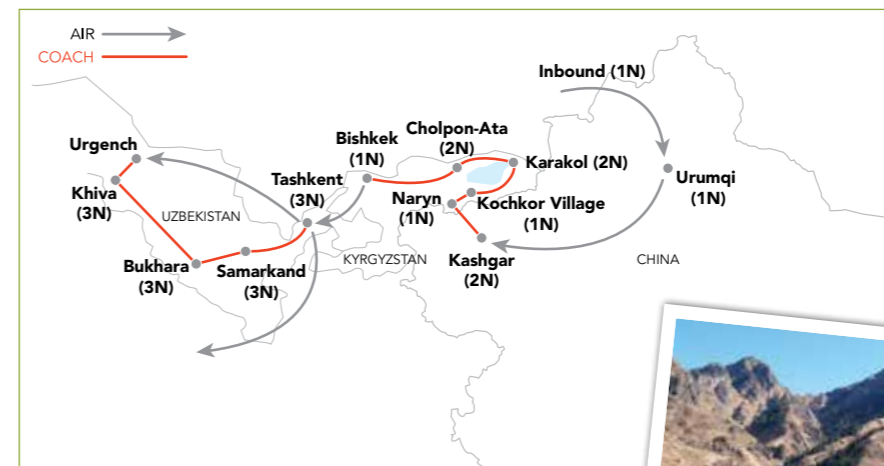
Spend the morning soaking up the atmosphere of the bustling animal market before examining the region's diverse religious influences with visits to the Holy Trinity Orthodox Cathedral and the Chinese mosque. Take an afternoon stroll in Jety-Orguz and through the beautiful Valley of Flowers. The next day visit the Przhnevskii Museum before driving to Cholpon-Ata.

**Day 10: Lake Issyk-Kul**

Explore the petroglyphs on a hillside near the town and visit the Ethnographical Museum. Admire the rock engravings dating from 800BC to 1200AD. In the afternoon visit Semenov Gorge and take a cruise on Lake Issyk-Kul with uninterrupted views of the surrounding snow-capped peaks. Enjoy a relaxing walk along the shores of the lake.

**Day 11: Travel to Bishkek**

Drive to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's capital, a city of wide, leafy boulevards which contrast with the Soviet-era architecture. En route visit the 11th century Burana Tower, an intricate minaret out in the countryside. This afternoon there is an option to visit spectacular Ala Archa National Park or enjoy the time at your leisure.



▲ LAKE ISSYK-KUL



▲ SHAH I ZINDA, SAMARKAND

**Day 12: Fly to Tashkent**

Rise early for a flight to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. This afternoon will be spent exploring this eccentric city, visiting the 16th century Kukeldash Medressa, Kaffal Shashi Mausoleum, Khan Medressa and Khast Imom Complex. Also see the Chorsu Bazaar, a traditional market under a beautiful blue dome, the Crying Mother Monument, and the Museum of Applied Arts.

**Day 13: Journey to Khiva**

Fly to Urgench and drive to the ancient city of Khiva. The rest of the day is at leisure.

**Day 14: Kuhna Ark Fortress**

The ancient city of Khiva has a long and turbulent history as part of the Silk Road and a slave trading post. This fascinating destination is lovely to explore – wander around the many medressahs, mosques and minarets within the ancient city walls, as well as the magnificent 17th century Kuhna Ark Fortress.

**Day 15: Khiva**

Explore the ruins of Eллиq-Qala, an impressive fort and temple complex dating back to the 4th century BC, before having lunch at a yurt camp. Return to Khiva where the remainder of the day is yours to spend as you wish.

**Days 16-18: Sacred Bukhara**

After a day's drive across the Kyzyi Kum desert arrive at the holiest city in Central Asia, Bukhara. Bukhara has been built up over thousands of years, with an atmospheric old centre and some pre-Soviet era architecture. Spend two days seeing the sights, with visits to the Ark Fortress, Chor Minor, Kalon Minaret, Labi-Hauz Plaza and the summer residence of the last Bukharan Emirs.

**Days 19-21: Samarkand**

Perhaps the most notable name in Silk Road history Samarkand is a UNESCO World Heritage city with an evocative skyline of domes and minarets and a mystical presence. Drive to the city via Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of the great historical leader, Tamerlane. Spend two days exploring some of the many historical sites of Samarkand including the Registan, Sher Dor Medressa, the Bibi-Khanyim Mosque, Shah-I-Zinda and the Ulugh Beg Observatory.

**Day 22: Samarkand to Tashkent**

Begin the return journey to Tashkent, passing through the impressive Gates of Tamerlane.

**Day 23: Tashkent**

Explore famous sights around Tashkent including the 1966 earthquake memorial, Independence and Bunyodkor squares, Alishedr Navoi Theatre and the Amir Timur Maydoni before exploring Broadway Street. Spend the night in Tashkent.

**Day 24: Fly Tashkent to UK**

Wake early this morning for your flight to the UK arriving the same day.

**GO BEYOND TOUR**

24 Days from

Per person **£3,990**

✓ Fully inclusive from UK

➤➤ Active

**2015 DEPART SUN - RETURN TUE**

19 Apr - 12 May	£3,990	20 Sep - 13 Oct	£3,990
03 May - 26 May	£3,990	04 Oct - 27 Oct	£3,990

**2016 DEPART SUN - RETURN TUE**

17 Apr - 10 May	£4,090	18 Sep - 11 Oct	£4,090
01 May - 24 May	£4,090	02 Oct - 25 Oct	£4,090

**Flight and supplement information**

**Based on London Heathrow departures**

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,410 (Urumqi - Tashkent)
- Single room from £540
- Tipping paid locally US\$111

**Price includes:**

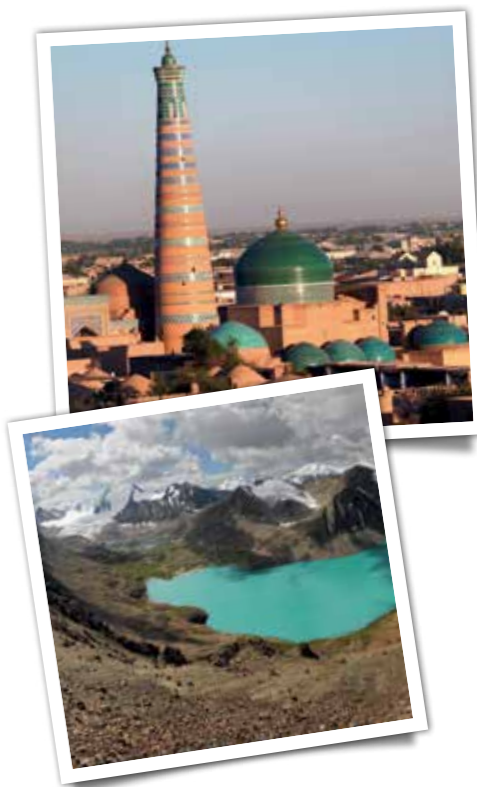
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

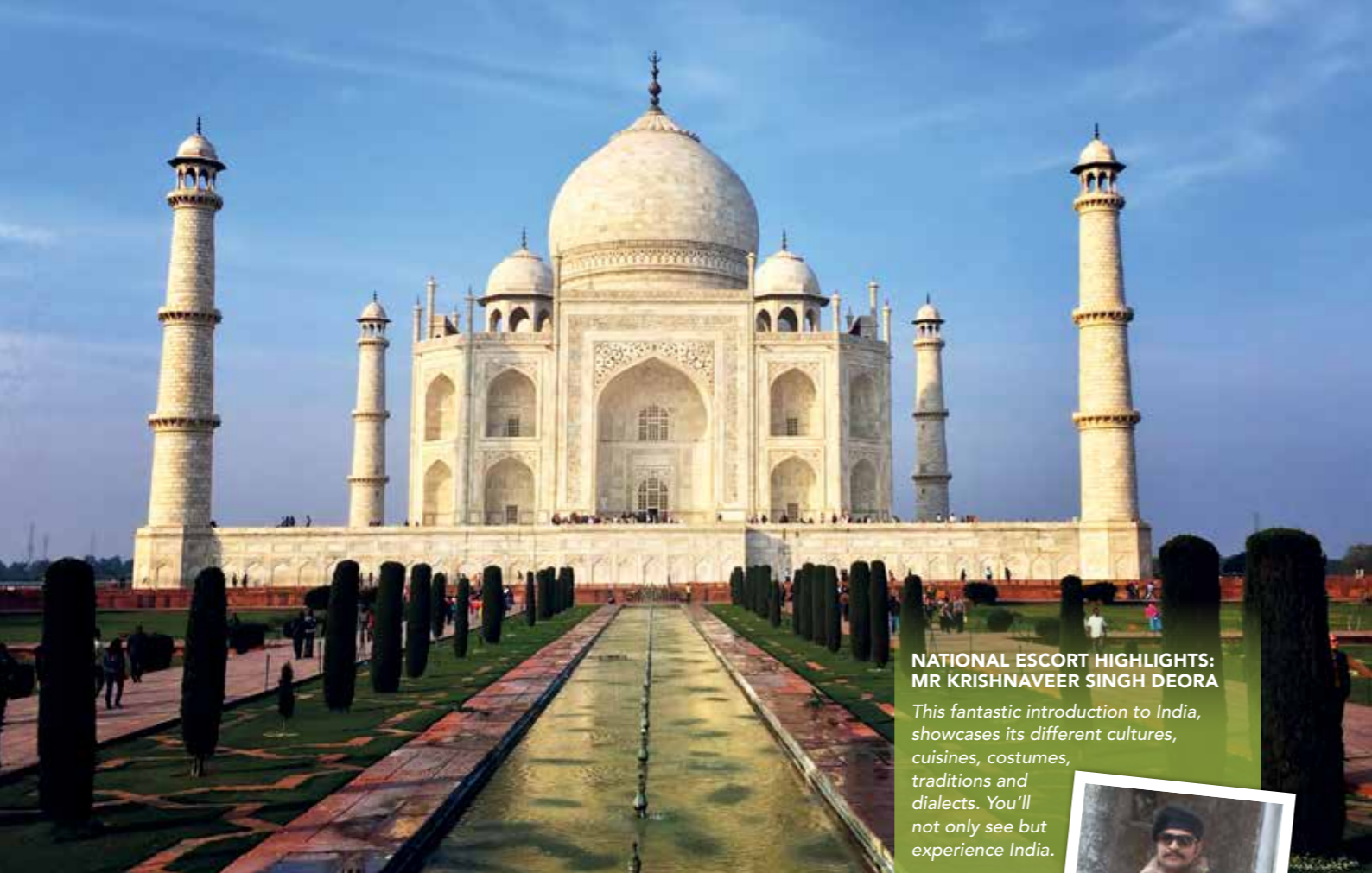
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▲ TAJ MAHAL

**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
MR KRISHNAVEER SINGH DEORA**

*This fantastic introduction to India, showcases its different cultures, cuisines, costumes, traditions and dialects. You'll not only see but experience India.*



# India's Golden Triangle

The fabled Golden Triangle is the classic introduction to this vast and beautiful country. Bustling streets, havens of tranquillity and architectural wonders await as you dive headlong into the vibrant sights, sounds and experiences of Northern India

- **Buzzing metropolis Delhi**
- **Agra and the Taj Mahal**
- **The Amber Fort**
- **Bollywood show**

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi**  
Fly overnight to India's rambunctious capital Delhi. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Discover Delhi**  
With all the charms of being a little bit rough-around-the-edges, Delhi is a city that grabs you and doesn't let go. Spend a full day exploring the sights of Old Delhi. Stroll around the outside of the colossal Red Fort, and browse your way through the bustling bazaar of Chandni Chowk. Visit Jama Masjid, India's largest and most impressive mosque, before viewing the 1930's Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple. You will also have a brief stop at India Gate and visits to Humayun's Tomb and Connaught Markets.

■ **Day 4: Delhi to Agra**  
Drive to Agra with an en route stop at Sikandra to see the tomb of the third Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great.

■ **Day 5: Taj Mahal**  
Rise early to see the sunrise over one of the world's most perfect buildings and India's most iconic sight. At dawn, when the crowds are at their thinnest, the Taj Mahal is swathed in mist and tinged pink by the rising sun – a magical experience. This afternoon visit Agra Fort, a hulking mass of red sandstone sat on the banks of the Yamuna River, just upstream from the Taj Mahal. The fort was established in the 16th century but has been much added to over the centuries making it an eclectic mix of architectural styles.

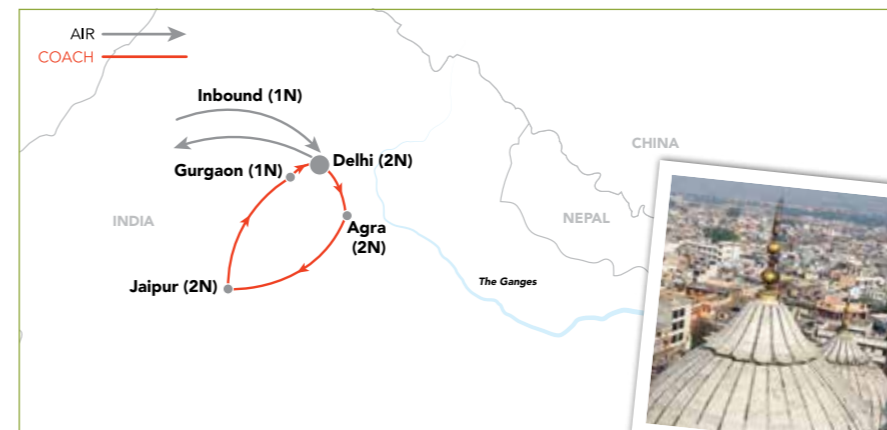
■ **Day 6: Agra to Jaipur**  
Journey to the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri. A spectacular array of Mughal palaces and temples, the complex was abandoned shortly after completion and is still shrouded in mystery. Continue to the Chand Baori Stepwell, a fabulously geometric, ancient construction, before arriving in Jaipur.

■ **Day 7: Hawa Mahal and Amber Fort**  
Begin the day with a brief stop at the Hawa Mahal, the 'Palace of the Winds', before travelling out of the city of Amer to admire the majestic Amber Fort. The ancient citadel of the Kachwahas, built in 1592, this red sandstone and marble fort effortlessly blends Hindu and Muslim architecture. This afternoon, back in Jaipur, explore the Maharaja's City Palace, as well as the Jantar Mantar Observatory and the local bazaar at Choti Choper.

■ **Day 8: Kingdom of Dreams**  
Travel to Gurgaon near Delhi, where tonight you will visit the Kingdom of Dreams to watch a magical Bollywood performance.

■ **Day 9: Fly Delhi to UK**  
Fly to the UK, arriving home later the same or following day.

**Make the most of your Indian experience with one of the extension packages opposite.**



## Ranthambore

3 Days extra from  
Per person **£420**

■ **Day 9: Ranthambore**  
Take the train from Delhi to Sawai Madhopur and then drive to Ranthambore National Park, India's most famous wildlife reserve. (D)

■ **Day 10: Ranthambore National Park**  
Take a morning canter safari in search of the elusive Bengal Tigers which reside in the park. In the afternoon, take a further safari through the park. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 11: Return to Delhi**  
Take a morning canter safari through the reserve before taking the train back to Delhi. (B)

■ **Day 12: Fly Delhi to UK**  
Fly to the UK. (B)



## Varanasi

3 Days extra from  
Per person **£480**

■ **Day 9: Train to Varanasi**  
Transfer to the station for your overnight train to Varanasi. (B)

■ **Day 10: Sarnath & Ganges Ghats**  
On arrival in Varanasi, transfer to your hotel. In the afternoon visit Sarnath, an important Buddhist pilgrimage centre. In the evening, visit the Ghats on the banks of the Ganges River and witness a Puja Ceremony. (B,L)

■ **Day 11: Boat Ride on the Ganges**  
Take an early morning boat ride on the Ganges followed by a city tour. Later, transfer to the airport for your flight to Delhi. (B,L)

■ **Day 12: Depart Delhi**  
Fly to the UK. (B)



## Goa

4 Days extra from  
Per person **£590**

■ **Day 9: Fly to Goa**  
Fly to Goa, on the beautiful Arabian Sea coastline. (B)

■ **Day 10: Discover Goa**  
Tour Goa, visiting Altinho Hill, Dona Paula and the colonial sights in Old Goa. End the day with some free time to shop in Panjim City. (B,L)

■ **Days 11-12: Goa at Leisure**  
Spend the next two days relaxing on Goa's beaches, or discovering more of Goa's Portuguese colonial heritage. (B)

■ **Day 13: Depart Goa**  
Fly to the UK. (B)

### GO BEYOND TOUR

- 9 Days from
- Per person **£1,890**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- Comfortable

**2015 DEPART SAT - RETURN SUN**

10 Jan - 18 Jan	£2,090	11 Apr - 19 Apr	£1,990
17 Jan - 25 Jan	£2,090	05 Sep - 13 Sep	£1,890
24 Jan - 01 Feb	£2,090	19 Sep - 27 Sep	£1,890
07 Feb - 15 Feb	£2,190	10 Oct - 18 Oct	£2,190
14 Feb - 22 Feb	£2,190	24 Oct - 01 Nov	£2,190
21 Feb - 01 Mar	£2,190	07 Nov - 15 Nov	£2,190
28 Feb - 08 Mar	£2,190	14 Nov - 22 Nov	£2,290
14 Mar - 22 Mar	£2,090	21 Nov - 29 Nov	£2,290
21 Mar - 29 Mar	£2,090	05 Dec - 13 Dec	£2,290
04 Apr - 12 Apr	£1,990	19 Dec - 27 Dec	£2,390

**2016 DEPART SAT - RETURN SAT**

09 Jan - 17 Jan	£2,190	09 Apr - 17 Apr	£2,090
16 Jan - 24 Jan	£2,190	03 Sep - 11 Sep	£1,990
23 Jan - 31 Jan	£2,190	17 Sep - 25 Sep	£1,990
06 Feb - 14 Feb	£2,290	08 Oct - 16 Oct	£2,290
13 Feb - 21 Feb	£2,290	22 Oct - 30 Oct	£2,290
20 Feb - 28 Feb	£2,290	05 Nov - 13 Nov	£2,290
27 Feb - 06 Mar	£2,290	12 Nov - 20 Nov	£2,390
12 Mar - 20 Mar	£2,190	19 Nov - 27 Nov	£2,390
19 Mar - 27 Mar	£2,190	03 Dec - 11 Dec	£2,390
02 Apr - 10 Apr*	£2,090	17 Dec - 25 Dec	£2,590

\* Days of the week different to those stated

**Flight and supplement information**

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
  - Land only from £1,420 (Delhi - Delhi)
  - Single room from £340
  - Tipping paid locally US\$50

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

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**NATIONAL ESCORT HIGHLIGHTS:  
MR RAMESH**

South India is a pleasant combination of history, culture and nature; the colonial era hill station of Coonoor, backwaters of Kerala and the mesmerising palace of Mysore.



▲ KOCHI

# Kerala & the Southern Highlights

Contrasting vastly from the north, southern India is an intensely tropical and wonderfully laid back region to explore. The emerald jewel in India's crown, Kerala boasts a rich heritage and mystical backwaters, flanked by rice paddies and coconut groves, and plied by rustic kettuvallam

- Sacred Kanchipuram
- Mysore's spectacular palace
- Ooty narrow gauge railway
- The magical backwaters

■ **Days 1-2: Fly to Chennai**  
Fly overnight to the city of Chennai, the gateway to southern India. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

■ **Day 3: Explore Chennai**  
Chennai, once Madras, was developed as a British trading post and so is home to a number of colonial sights. Though our city tour begins at the 13km-long Marina Beach, you'll also visit Fort St George, established by the East India Company, and the British built St Mary's Church. Finally see the colourful Shiva Kapaleeswarar Temple.

■ **Day 4: Kanchipuram and Mamallapuram**  
Journey to Kanchipuram, one of the seven sacred cities of India, to sightsee and visit Srinivasa Silk House. Continue on to the coastal town of Mamallapuram to view the fascinating 7th and 8th century rock carvings.

■ **Day 5: Train to Bangalore**  
Rise early to catch the Shatabdi Express to the garden city of Bangalore. Take an afternoon city tour to see the Bull Temple, Tipu Sultan's Palace and Vidhana Soudha.

■ **Day 6: Explore Hassan**  
Travel to Hassan and visit Shravanabelagola, one of the most revered Jain pilgrimage sites in India and home to the world's tallest free-standing statue. You'll also visit the 12th century temples of Belur and Halebid, a part of Karnataka's rich cultural heritage.

■ **Day 7: Mysore**  
Head to Mysore, stopping at Srirangapatnam Fort en route. Visit the magnificent Maharaja's Palace and drive up to Chamundi Hill to admire the 12th century Sri Chamundeshwari Temple and Nandi Bull. Tonight, enjoy a traditional cooking demonstration hosted by a local family.

■ **Day 8: Coonoor Hill Station**  
Journey up into the cool climes of the Western Ghats to the beautiful hill station of Coonoor. Relax and appreciate the peace and natural splendour of this quaint town.

■ **Day 9: Ooty narrow gauge railway**  
Hop aboard the miniature, narrow gauge 'Toy Train' to Ooty, nicknamed the Queen of hill stations. Upon arrival you'll visit the botanical gardens and walk up to a small village where you'll be able to gain insight into the lives of the local people, as well as gaining incredible views back over Ooty.



▲ BANGALORE



▲ MYSORE PALACE

■ **Day 10: Munnar**  
Begin the descent through the highlands with a full day driving through the Western Ghats, enjoying a plethora of spectacular panoramas as we go. Reach Munnar, a hill station enveloped by lush tea plantations.

■ **Day 11: Tea plantation**  
Visit a local tea plantation and the Tata Tea Museum. Later, travel to Thekkady which is renowned for its spice shops and home of the Periyar Wildlife Reserve.

■ **Day 12: Periyar Wildlife Reserve**  
Designated a Tiger Reserve in 1978, the Periyar Wildlife Reserve, however, is best known for elephants. Take a walk through the reserve, keeping an eye out for its resident elephant population, as well as wild dogs, barking deer, mouse deer and the elusive Bengal Tiger. Visit a local spice village and market. Enjoy a traditional Kalaripayattu (martial art) show this evening.

■ **Day 13: Backwaters cruise**  
Travel to Pallathuruthy where you'll board your houseboat, a converted rice barge, known as a kettuvallam. Sit back and watch life on the water and the passing untouched wilderness as you cruise unhurriedly along the canals. Lunch and dinner will be served on board and you'll spend a comfortable night on the water.

■ **Day 14: Kumarakom**  
After breakfast on the boat, disembark and drive to Kumarakom. Stop en route at the local market in Alleppey and a coir factory. On arrival the rest of the day is free for you to spend as you wish.

■ **Day 15: Travel to Kochi**  
Journey to colourful and cosmopolitan Kochi, a city built on a beautiful lagoon of the Arabian Sea. Take an afternoon visit to Kumbalangi fishing village.

■ **Day 16: Explore Kochi**  
Take a full day tour around Kochi starting at St Francis Church, the first European church to be built in India. Next visit Santa Cruz Basilica, which also provides excellent views of the unique Chinese fishing nets used in the area. Finish by admiring the Jewish synagogue in the heart of the Jewish Quarter and a stroll through the nearby markets. This evening enjoy an exuberant Kathakali dance performance.

■ **Day 17: Fly Kochi to UK**  
Spend the day at leisure before transferring to the airport. Fly to the UK, arriving home later the same or following day.

**GO BEYOND TOUR**

- 17 Days from
- Per person **£2,990**
- ✓ Fully inclusive from UK
- » Moderate

**2015 DEPART WED - RETURN SAT**

04 Feb - 21 Feb	£2,990	16 Sep - 03 Oct	£2,990
18 Feb - 07 Mar	£2,990	30 Sep - 17 Oct	£3,090
04 Mar - 21 Mar	£2,990	14 Oct - 31 Oct	£3,090
11 Mar - 28 Mar	£2,990	04 Nov - 21 Nov	£3,190
02 Sep - 19 Sep	£2,990	18 Nov - 05 Dec	£3,190

**2016 DEPART WED - RETURN SAT**

13 Jan - 30 Jan	£3,090	14 Sep - 01 Oct	£3,090
03 Feb - 20 Feb	£3,090	28 Sep - 15 Oct	£3,190
17 Feb - 05 Mar	£3,090	12 Oct - 29 Oct	£3,190
02 Mar - 19 Mar	£3,090	02 Nov - 19 Nov	£3,290
09 Mar - 26 Mar	£3,090	16 Nov - 03 Dec	£3,290
31 Aug - 17 Sep	£3,090		

**Flight and supplement information**  
Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,400 (Chennai - Kochi)
- Single room from £830
- Tipping paid locally US\$95

**Price includes:**

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

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- Like this itinerary, but want to do it a little differently?

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# Stopovers

Extend your tour with a stopover in the Middle East, Istanbul, or Hong Kong. Relax by the pool, or explore some of the world's most cosmopolitan and sleek urban destinations.

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## Hong Kong Stopover

**3** Nights from **£290** per person

A sophisticated and lively metropolis, colonial influences and modern skyscrapers mask a distinctly Chinese character, making Hong Kong arguably the ultimate east-meets-west destination. On your included half day tour, visit colourful Stanley Market, Aberdeen Fishing Village, and see Hong Kong's famous skyline from Victoria Peak. As a city break destination, Hong Kong really does have it all.

### Your Hotel

The **BP International** is ideally located in bustling Kowloon, next to the lush calming green of Kowloon Park, around the corner from the excellent shopping on Nathan Road and within walking distance of the harbour. Rooms are well lit and modern, and facilities include a café, restaurant and bar.



### Adding this on

This can be easily added to any of our tours by flying internationally with Cathay Pacific.

### Upgrade your experience

**Cosmopolitan Hotel** is located on Hong Kong Island, across from the Happy Valley Racecourse. Rooms are contemporarily furnished and there is a fitness centre, bar and restaurant to enjoy. For a touch of luxury, try the well-appointed **Harbour Grand Kowloon**. Located on the Kowloon waterfront in the Whampoa Garden district, the bright and airy rooms enjoy views of either the pretty courtyard or expansive harbour. **The Intercontinental Grand Stanford** is also located on the waterfront, and benefits from world-class restaurants and a rooftop swimming pool with fantastic views of the harbour.

### Price includes

- Airport transfers
- Accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Half day city tour
- 3 ☆ **BP International** from £290pp
- 4 ☆ **Cosmopolitan (Dorsett Wan Chai)** from £340pp
- 5 ☆ **The Harbour Grand Kowloon** from £540pp
- 5 ☆ **Intercontinental Grand Stanford** from £590pp

*Flight supplements may apply.*



## Optional Day Tours

Enhance your visit with any of the following add ons:

### Lantau from £90pp

The largest island of the Hong Kong archipelago, Lantau is laid-back and lovely. Visit Cheung Sha Beach and Tai O Fishing Village, and travel to Ngong Ping Plateau to see the Giant Buddha. Also explore Po Lin Monastery, Ngong Ping Village and ride aboard the Skyrail cable car. (L)

### Macau from £120pp

Take the hydrofoil to Macau. Explore this former Portuguese colony with visits to the ruins of St Paul's Church, Ama Temple, Macau Museum (closed Mondays) and a local casino (minimum age 18). Return by hydrofoil to Hong Kong.



### Cooking Class from £110pp

Hong Kong is home to a delicious and diverse cuisine so why not take home a lasting reminder by learning to create some culinary masterpieces of your own. On this half-day class you will learn the principles and some of the basic skills of Chinese cooking, blending the freshest ingredient to create mouth-watering dishes.



### Hiking from £110pp

Take an easy hike along the Dragon's Back Trail through bamboo groves and over hills with spectacular views of the coastline and distant islands. Walking distance 5km, medium pace.



## Hong Kong and Macau

**4** Nights from **£500** per person

Combine the cosmopolitan destination of Hong Kong with the fascinating former Portuguese colony of Macau. An intriguing mix of colonial charms and Chinese character; you will experience Hong Kong's diversity on an included half day tour. Next, take a tour of Macau – a glittering city where brash Las Vegas style casinos rub shoulders with a conservative heritage and where Mediterranean and Asian influences collide.

### Your Hotels

In Hong Kong you'll stay at the **BP International**. In Macau, **The Regency** nestles in three acres of green gardens on Taipa Island, just a 10 minute drive from the centre of Macau. Here you'll find airy, well-equipped rooms, a fitness centre, two restaurants and a coffee shop.



## STOPOVERS

### Adding this on

This can be easily added to any of our tours by flying internationally with Cathay Pacific.

### Upgrade your experience

Hong Kong's **Park Hotel** is an oasis of serenity amongst the bustle of Kowloon. Rooms are modern and generous whilst facilities include a fitness room, café and bar. The **Metropark Macau** is a modern yet elegant hotel with a spa pool, sauna and fitness centre. For five-star luxury, stay at the **Harbour Grand Kowloon** where unbeatable views over the city and harbour combine with world-class restaurants. The graceful and spacious **Sofitel Macau** sits on the waterfront of Macau's historic quarter.

### Price includes

- Airport transfers
- Accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Half day Hong Kong city tour
- Half day Macau city tour
- 3 ☆ **BP International & The Regency** from £500pp
- 4 ☆ **The Park Hotel & Metropark Macau** from £570pp
- 5 ☆ **Harbour Grand Kowloon & Sofitel Macau** from £740pp

*Flight supplements may apply.*



## Taste of Macau

**2** Nights from **£290** per person

The city of Macau has a fascinating mix of influences that gives it a unique and fascinating atmosphere. On a tour of the city, you will see the old fortresses, churches and mansions that speak of the Mediterranean style of the city's former Portuguese rulers, whilst temples and shrines add an Asian flavour. Macau is perhaps best known for its colourful casino scene, that earned it the nickname of the 'Vegas of the East'.

### Your Hotel

**The Regency Macau** nestles in three acres of green gardens on Taipa Island, just a 10 minute drive from the centre of Macau. Unwind in your bright, airy and well-equipped room; take a dip in the large outdoor pool (seasonal) – there is also a fitness centre, tennis courts, two restaurants and a coffee shop.



### Adding this on

This can be easily added to any of our tours by flying internationally with Cathay Pacific.

### Upgrade your experience

**The Grand Emperor Hotel** has a lobby as grand as its name, whilst rooms are cosy and stylish utilising rich colours and fabrics. Facilities include a casino, spa and several dining options. Excellently located just 800 metres from Senado Square, the historic centre of Macau, the **Metropark Macau** offers modern yet elegant accommodation. Enjoy the spa pool, sauna, fitness centre and two restaurants. For ultimate luxury try **Sofitel Macau** which sits majestically on the waterfront in the historic quarter. Just a short stroll from Senado Square, rooms are luxurious and spacious and the hotel has excellent facilities.

### Price includes

- Airport transfers
- Accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Half day city tour
- 3 ☆ **The Regency Macau** from £290pp
- 3 ☆ **Grand Emperor Hotel** from £350pp
- 4 ☆ **Metropark Macau** from £370pp
- 5 ☆ **Sofitel Macau** from £420pp

*Flight supplements may apply.*





## Doha

3 Nights from **£340** per person

The largest city in Qatar and the newest metropolitan player on the Persian Gulf, Doha perfectly blends Islamic charisma and mystique with the urban majesty that is so apparent in its neighbours Dubai and Abu Dhabi. With golden beaches, exotic souqs and a quirky skyline, Doha offers the perfect extension and symbolises the grandeur of the modern Middle Eastern city. On an included full-day tour, visit the sea-front Corniche, Dhow Harbour, Souq Wahif and Falcon Market, and sample a traditional Arabic meal.

### Your Hotel

Located within walking distance of the Persian Gulf and the Museum of Islamic Art, the **Kingsgate Hotel** offers spacious rooms, fabulous views and a restaurant preparing cuisine from all across the world.



### Adding this on

This tour can be easily added to any of our tours when flying internationally with Qatar Airways.

### Upgrade your experience

Located amongst mysterious souqs and the lively business district, the **Swiss Belhotel International** lies in the heart of this spectacular city. Convenient location and comfortable accommodation, this hotel provides a luxurious gymnasium with a stunning swimming pool, as well as the Maxill Restaurant, which offers delectable international cuisine. **The Renaissance Hotel** is at the forefront when it comes to Doha luxury. All rooms offer floor to ceiling windows with a choice of city or sea vistas. Relax in the outdoor swimming pool or drift away in the relaxing Saray Spa which provides traditional Middle Eastern treatments and products.

### Price includes

- Airport transfers
- Accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Full day city tour

- 3 ☆ **Kingsgate Hotel** from £340pp
- 4 ☆ **Swiss-Belhotel** from £380pp
- 5 ☆ **Renaissance Doha City Centre** from £590pp

*Flight supplements may apply.*



## Istanbul

3 Nights from **£250** per person

A year round destination, Istanbul is one of the world's great cities, straddling the continents of Europe and Asia on either side of the Bosphorous Strait. The ancient relics of Christendom juxtapose with an ethereal skyline of domes and minarets. Down on the cobbled streets, the senses are gloriously bombarded with a multitude of sights, sounds and scenes that make every moment something to feverishly anticipate.

### Your Hotel

**Ottoman Hotel Park** boasts a prime location in Sultanahmet, within walking distance of the Blue Mosque and Istanbul's most historic attractions – this highly rated hotel is perfect for a short stay in Istanbul. The spacious rooms feature a host of facilities including bathrobes and slippers, orthopedic beds and a beautifully designed bathroom.



### Adding this on

This can be easily added to any of our tours by flying internationally with Turkish Airlines.

### Upgrade your experience

One of the most historic buildings in the city, the majestic **Wyndham Istanbul Old City** boasts a perfect location and has everything you would expect from a luxury 5-star hotel, including a team of amazingly helpful staff. **The Ritz Carlton** lives up to its prestigious brand, it features Istanbul's only outdoor spa, as well as world class dining options. The hotel is adorned with beautiful Turkish carpets and antique furniture.

### Price includes

- Airport transfers
- Accommodation

- 4 ☆ **Ottoman Hotel Park** from £250pp
- 5 ☆ **Wyndham Istanbul Old City** from £350pp
- 5 ☆ **Ritz Carlton** from £490pp

*Flight supplements may apply.*



## Abu Dhabi

3 Nights from **£240** per person

Abu Dhabi evolved from a small fishing village into a shamelessly rich city-state and capital of the UAE in lightning speed. Whilst still thoroughly cosmopolitan, it is a palpably more relaxed and austere city than neighbouring Dubai. Take a half day tour through this modern desert metropolis, visiting the beautiful Grand Mosque Sheikh Zayed, Al Bateen Neighbourhood, Heritage Village and Yas Island's Ferrari World.

### Your Hotel

The stylish and contemporary **Centro Yas Island** is perfectly located on the vibrant Yas Island, close to Yas Southern Marina, Yas Beach, the F1 racetrack and Ferrari World Abu Dhabi. Featuring a gym and outdoor swimming pool, the Centro's rooms offer modern relaxation in cool, calm colours. A deli and restaurant offer a range of food, whilst the funky bar serves up refreshing drinks.



## STOPOVERS

### Adding this on

This can be easily added to any of our tours by flying internationally with Etihad.

### Upgrade your experience

Well-positioned on the spectacular Yas Island the **Yas Island, Rotana** combines elegant design with international flair. Sit back and be pampered with excellent service, take a dip in the outdoor pool or relax in the spa. Accommodation is plush comfort in modern, spacious rooms. Alternatively, try a slice of Abu Dhabi luxury at the **Beach Rotana**. Located in central Abu Dhabi, in the Al Zahiyah Area, this hotel has myriad facilities, a private beach, and is linked directly to the Abu Dhabi Mall. Rooms are spacious, elegant and the height of decadent comfort.

### Price includes

- Airport transfers
- Accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Half day city tour

- 3 ☆ **Centro Yas Island** from £240pp
- 4 ☆ **Yas Island Rotana** from £270pp
- 5 ☆ **Beach Rotana** from £320pp

*Flight supplements may apply.*



## Dubai

3 Nights from **£220** per person

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination – a city full of sleek, futuristic architecture, mega-sized shopping malls, the world's most luxurious hotels and a cosmopolitan nightlife all fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig deeper behind the ultra-modern facade and you'll come across a rich and traditional culture centred on the labyrinthine old city. A half day tour explores Dubai's best known locations – Dubai Marina, the Palm Jumeirah, the mosque of Jumeirah, Burj Khalifa Downtown and the Spice & Gold Souq.

### Your Hotel

At the heart of the Deira district, the **Marco Polo** is a sleek, friendly and modern hotel. Go to the beach on a free shuttle, and enjoy the outdoor pool and hot tub as well as a wide choice of restaurant options, from an English pub to Tex-Mex and a 24-hour bakery. Rooms offer classy comfort and all the modern conveniences.



### Adding this on

This can be easily added to any of our tours by flying internationally with Emirates.

### Upgrade your experience

The **Trader's Hotel** by Shangri-La offers guests contemporary Arabian style and gracious hospitality. Situated in the heritage-filled Deira district, rooms are tasteful with city views. **The Ramada Jumeirah Beach** has the whole city on its doorstep and floor to ceiling windows to help you admire the views. Relax on the beach or in your deluxe accommodation. For a taste of luxury, choose the **Sheraton Jumeirah Beach Resort**. Set in landscaped gardens right on a private beach in the Dubai Marina, this hotel has exquisite facilities, including pool and sun terrace, a huge range of dining options and warmly decorated rooms with views over the Arabian Gulf.

### Price includes

- Airport transfers
- Accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Half day city tour

- 3 ☆ **Marco Polo** from £220pp
- 4 ☆ **The Ramada Jumeirah Beach** from £290pp
- 4 ☆ **Traders Hotel** from £330pp
- 5 ☆ **Sheraton Jumeirah Beach** from £440pp

*Flight supplements may apply.*

# Airlines

Your flights are an important part of your Wendy Wu Tours experience. We only work with scheduled airlines with the best reputations for service, reliability and punctuality. We use reputable domestic airlines for internal routes.

## BRITISH AIRWAYS Preferred Partner

Having enjoyed an excellent working relationship with British Airways for many years, we are delighted to be a British Airways Preferred Partner. This gives us access to the most competitive fares and allows us to offer high levels of service to help enhance your overall travel experience. You can check-in as normal at the airport or avoid the queues and check-in online, printing your boarding pass at home and simply dropping off your bags before you fly. British Airways flies from London Heathrow to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Chengdu and Tokyo. Connecting flights to London Heathrow are available.

### World Traveller

31" seat pitch with lumbar support, footrest and adjustable headrest. Personal TV screens with audio video on demand offering access to 200 TV, film and music channels. A three course meal with complimentary bar service is also provided.

### World Traveller Plus

This is a quieter cabin with a maximum of six rows, 38" seat pitch and wider seat with lumbar support, footrest and adjustable headrest. There is a personal TV and a three course meal, with choice of entrée from the Club World menu plus a complimentary bar service.

### Club World

Benefit from dedicated check-in desks, departure and arrival lounges and a treatment in the Elemis Travel Spa (London Heathrow). Club World offers 6ft fully flat beds, personal TV, and an à la carte meal with a dedicated wine cellar as well as hot and cold snacks and beverages.

### First

First customers benefit from dedicated check-in desks, departure and arrival lounges and a treatment in the Elemis Travel Spa (London Heathrow). The exclusive 'demicabin' creates a private environment. The seat converts into a 6'6" fully flat bed with duvet, pillows and a sleeper suit as well as a fold-down companion seat. Pre-flight dining is available at London Heathrow. On board, choose from a formal gourmet menu accompanied by fine wines and champagnes.



## CATHAY PACIFIC

- Direct departures 5 x daily from London Heathrow to Hong Kong and 4 x weekly from Manchester
- Connections from Hong Kong to 20 cities across China
- Economy Class features a 32" seat pitch, with a 6" recline, an in seat power outlet and a 9" widescreen personal TV with a wide range of inflight entertainment
- Member of the One World alliance.
- One of only seven airlines to receive a five-star Skytrax rating
- Upgrade to Premium Economy for more legroom, a wider seat, dedicated cabin, 10.6" personal TV, amenity kit and increased baggage allowance
- Upgrades available to Business Class with a fully flatbed seat



- Departures from Birmingham, Glasgow, London Gatwick, London Heathrow, Manchester and Newcastle
- Connections via Dubai to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Seoul, Taipei, Tokyo
- Double daily flights from London Heathrow and London Gatwick to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong
- Economy Class features a 32-34" seat pitch and a personal seatback TV with a wide range of inflight entertainment
- One of the youngest fleets in the world and Winner of Skytrax Worlds Best Airline 2013
- Fly on the Airbus A380, with nine daily flights from Heathrow, Manchester and Gatwick
- Upgrades available to Business Class with a fully flatbed seat, and complimentary chauffeur service



- Departures from London Heathrow, Manchester and Edinburgh
- Connections via Doha to Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Hong Kong and Tokyo
- Economy Class features a 32" seat pitch and a personal seatback TV
- Member of the One World alliance.
- Winners of World's Best Airline for two consecutive years. One of only seven airlines to receive a five-star Skytrax rating
- Upgrades available to Business class with a fully flatbed seat



- Departures from London Heathrow and Manchester
- Connections via Abu Dhabi to Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo
- Economy Class features a 32" seat pitch, with a 6" recline and a personal 11" seatback TV with a wide range of inflight entertainment
- Winners of the World Travel Awards "World's Leading Airline"
- One of the most modern fleets in the world
- Upgrades available to Business Class with a fully flatbed seat, and complimentary chauffeur service

## AIRLINES



- Departures from London Heathrow and Manchester
- Connections via Helsinki to Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong
- The quickest indirect route to China from the UK
- Economy Class features a 32" seat pitch and personal seatback TV with a wide range of inflight entertainment
- Member of the One World alliance
- Upgrades available to Business Class with a fully flatbed seat



- Daily flights direct to Beijing from London Heathrow
- Numerous onward connections to key cities within China, including Shanghai, Xian, Chengdu, Guilin, Hong Kong
- Economy Class features a 32" seat pitch and a personal seatback TV with a wide range of on demand entertainment
- Member of the Star Alliance
- Four star Skytrax rating
- Winner of the TTG Best China Airline
- Brand new Boeing 777 aircraft
- Upgrades available to Business Class with a fully flatbed seat, and complimentary chauffeur service
- Lowest priced Business Class to China

As well as British Airways and the featured airlines on this page we work with KLM, Air France, Turkish Airlines, Virgin Atlantic, China Eastern and China Southern, meaning you are able to fly from just about any airport in the UK.

Our prices are based on flights from London Heathrow. Regional departures may be subject to an additional cost.



# Hotels

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town.

## Beijing

**Super House International Hotel**  
No. 102 Dongsanhuan South Road  
Chao Yang District, Beijing.

**Jiangxi Grand Hotel**  
8 Heng Yi Tiao Road  
Fengtai District, Beijing.

**Park Plaza Beijing West Hotel**  
No. 17 Xicui Road  
Haidian District, Beijing.

**Days Inn Forbidden City Hotel**  
1 Nanwanzi Hutong,  
Dongcheng District, Beijing.

## Xian

**King Dynasty Hotel**  
No.1 Daqing Road, Xian.

**Orient Hotel**  
393 Zhuque Road, Xian.

**Yulong International Hotel**  
No. 5 West Part of North 2nd Ring Road,  
Xian.

**Embassador International Hotel**  
No. 46 Xingying Road, Xian.

## Shanghai

**Anting Villa Hotel**  
46 Anting Road,  
Xuhui District, Shanghai.

**Shaanxi Business Hotel**  
658 Middle Yan An Road  
Jingan District, Shanghai.

**Holiday Inn Downtown Shanghai**  
585 Heng Feng Road, Shanghai.

**Regal Shanghai East Asia Hotel**  
800 Lingling Road  
Xuhui, Shanghai.

## Chengdu

**Furong Hotel**  
99 Guojielou Street, Qingyang District,  
Chengdu.

**Jin-Tone Hotel**  
No. 95 Huapaifang Street,  
Jinniu District, Chengdu, Sichuan.

**Tianfu Sunshine Hotel**  
Caoshi St, Qingyang District,  
Chengdu, Sichuan.

## Guilin

**Universal Hotel**  
1 Jiefangdong Road, Guangxi, Guilin.

**Minfeng International Hotel**  
No. 12 Jian'gan Road, Guilin.

**Jin-Tone Hotel**  
1 North Zhongshan Road, Guilin.

**Lijiang Waterfall Hotel Guilin,**  
1 Shanhu North Road, Xiufeng, Guilin.

## Yangshuo

**Green Lotus Hotel**  
No.1 Guanlian Road, Yangshuo.

**New Century Hotel**  
Pantao Road (next to Yangshuo Park),  
Yangshuo.

**Elite Garden Hotel**  
51 Pantao Road, Yangshuo.

## Lijiang

**Lijiang Wangfu Hotel**  
No.9 Yigu Alley, South Gate Street,  
Old Town, Lijiang.

**Lijiang International Hotel**  
Jinxing Street, Gucheng, Lijiang.

## Dali

**Asian Star Hotel**  
214 National Rd, Dali, Yunnan.

## Kunming

**Jin Jiang Hotel**  
98 Beijing Road, Kunming.

**Green Lake Hotel**  
6 Cuihu South Road, Kunming.

## Suzhou

**Garden Hotel**  
No.477 Liu Yuan Road of Suzhou.

**Holiday Inn Youlian Suzhou**  
99 Jie Fang East Road, Suzhou.

## Hangzhou

**Friendship Hotel**  
Pinghai Road, Hangzhou.

**Lily Hotel**  
156 Shu Guang Road, Hangzhou.

## Nine Villages Valley

**Xin Jiuzhai Valley Hotel**  
Zhanglong Town, Jiuzhaigou County.

## Tibet

**Tibet Hotel**  
No.64 Beijing Middle Road,  
Chengguan District, Lhasa.

**Gang Gyan Hotel**  
East Beijing Road, Lhasa.

Hotels are subject to change and will be confirmed with your final documents

# China for all Seasons

Our tours cover the length and breadth of China. Depending on the time of year and where you travel, you may experience two or more seasons as you journey through the country.

BEIJING			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	-9	2	3
Feb	-6	5	5
Mar	0	12	8
Apr	8	20	21
May	14	26	34
Jun	19	30	78
Jul	22	31	185
Aug	21	30	160
Sep	15	26	46
Oct	8	19	22
Nov	0	10	7
Dec	-6	4	3

XIAN			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	-4	5	7
Feb	-1	8	10
Mar	4	14	29
Apr	10	21	43
May	14	26	60
Jun	19	31	54
Jul	22	32	99
Aug	21	31	71
Sep	16	25	92
Oct	10	20	60
Nov	3	12	24
Dec	-3	6	6

GUILIN			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	5	12	63
Feb	7	13	97
Mar	10	16	137
Apr	16	23	247
May	20	27	352
Jun	23	30	347
Jul	25	33	231
Aug	25	33	173
Sep	22	30	82
Oct	17	27	86
Nov	12	20	64
Dec	7	15	43

HONG KONG			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	14	19	23
Feb	14	19	48
Mar	17	21	67
Apr	20	25	162
May	24	29	317
Jun	27	30	376
Jul	27	32	324
Aug	26	31	301
Sep	26	30	300
Oct	23	28	145
Nov	19	24	35
Dec	15	21	27

SHANGHAI			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	1	8	76
Feb	2	8	44
Mar	5	13	118
Apr	11	19	63
May	16	24	85
Jun	20	27	212
Jul	25	32	142
Aug	25	32	230
Sep	21	27	76
Oct	15	22	64
Nov	9	17	43
Dec	2	11	34

CHENGDU			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	3	9	8
Feb	5	11	12
Mar	8	16	20
Apr	13	22	44
May	17	26	79
Jun	21	28	107
Jul	22	30	225
Aug	22	30	201
Sep	19	26	119
Oct	15	21	35
Nov	10	16	16
Dec	5	11	5

KUNMING			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	2	15	16
Feb	4	17	16
Mar	6	21	20
Apr	10	24	24
May	14	24	97
Jun	17	24	181
Jul	17	24	202
Aug	16	24	204
Sep	15	23	119
Oct	12	20	79
Nov	7	17	42
Dec	3	15	12

TOKYO			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	-1	9	51
Feb	0	9	69
Mar	3	13	108
Apr	9	18	128
May	13	22	143
Jun	18	25	172
Jul	22	29	141
Aug	23	31	149
Sep	20	27	216
Oct	13	21	192
Nov	7	16	96
Dec	2	12	53

## Beijing

Beijing's climate, like the city itself, is ever changing. Winter is cold, but with crisp blue skies and fewer visitors, this makes it an ideal time to travel. Spring and autumn are warmer, with cloudier skies.

## Shanghai

Shanghai's weather can be split into four distinct seasons – a warm spring, a hot and rainy summer, cooler weather in autumn and a cold winter. Being next to the sea, Shanghai experiences more rain than the rest of China.

## Xian

Xian experiences a hot and rainy summer, a cold, clear and dry winter, and short rain showers throughout spring and autumn. Xian's weather is generally pleasant year round.

## Chengdu

Chengdu's weather is characteristically foggy and humid, with a long and warm spring; a short and hot summer, a cool autumn and a cold winter. July and August are the rainiest months.

## Guilin

Guilin's southern location blesses it with mild weather on average. Spring is hot, while summer is rainy, humid and foggy. Autumn is cool and pleasant, and winter can be breezy with occasional drizzle.

## Kunming

Kunming justly lives up to its name as the 'Spring City' of China – with weather like spring most of the year, it rarely experiences cold winters or the extreme heat of summer.

## Hong Kong

Hong Kong's subtropical location means it experiences pleasant temperatures year round. Spring is warm and humid, summer is hot and rainy, autumn is sunny and clear, and winter is cooler and dry.

## Tokyo

Tokyo's four seasons bring hot summers, chilly winters with snow showers, and pleasant spring and autumn seasons. June and July bring seasonal rains, and of course spring is known for cherry blossoms whilst autumn is famed for its fabulous foliage.

# Your Questions Answered

A selection of our most frequently asked questions.

## Before you travel

### Q. How soon after making our booking will we receive confirmation?

**A.** Once we have received your deposit we will send your confirmation documents.

### Q. Do you send us information about the destinations we will visit?

**A.** You will receive a travel guide and phrasebook as well as a suggested packing list with your final documents. We will also send you a detailed tour dossier, which provides a straightforward description of the physical activities involved on each day of your itinerary. If there are any particular challenges such as the length of time spent on your feet, journey times or accommodation standards, they will be explained in these concise trip notes. It is essential that you read the relevant tour dossier before booking, which you can find on [wendywutours.co.uk](http://wendywutours.co.uk), or we can arrange for one to be sent to you.

### Q. Will I know which hotels I will be staying in before I go?

**A.** Hotel details will be sent with your final documents. Note that these may be subject to change. Hotels generally range from 3-4 stars. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. See page 132 for examples of hotels we usually use.

### Q. How do I get my visa?

**A.** The cost of your visa is included in the price of your tour (UK & EU passports only). Simply send us your passport, completed visa application form and passport size photos eight weeks before departure by Royal Mail Special Delivery and we aim to have them sent back to you within four weeks. If you require your passport back earlier, please let us know so that we can arrange for an express visa service at an additional

charge. Passports or visa application forms received six weeks or less before departure will automatically incur an express visa fee. Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items. Personal collection or courier services are available on request. Please note that visa and Tibet Permit regulations can change at any time.

### Q. Do I need travel insurance?

**A.** Your protection and safety are our main priority. That's why having adequate travel insurance is a condition of booking with us for all the destinations you plan to travel to. Contact us for details of our recommended policies.

### Q. What vaccinations do I need?

**A.** We recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you.

	Recommended
China	Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis. Malaria tablets in some regions
Hong Kong	Hepatitis A
Vietnam	Hepatitis A, Typhoid & Tetanus. Malaria tablets in some regions
Nepal	Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis. Malaria tablets in some regions
Mongolia	Hepatitis A
Kyrgyzstan	Hepatitis A
Uzbekistan	Hepatitis A, Poliomyelitis
Taiwan	Hepatitis A
Qatar	Hepatitis A
UAE	Hepatitis A
South Korea	Hepatitis A
Japan	No recommended vaccinations

*This information is given as a guide only and no responsibility can be taken for any errors or omissions. Source: [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk). Always seek your doctor's advice.*



## Q. How fit do I need to be?

**A.** Our group tours are graded on each page to reflect the level of fitness required.

The specific reasons for a particular grading for each tour are clearly described on the tour dossiers which you can find on our website. Please contact us if you require any advice.

Our range of private tours is more flexible and may better cater for individual needs. Ask us for more details.

**Comfortable**  
Accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. They may involve sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats.

**Moderate**  
Not strenuous, but do require higher levels of fitness. A typical tour may include activities stated above as well as longer periods of sightseeing on foot/driving. Easy walking, areas of high altitude and overnight train journeys may also feature.

**Active**  
Require a good level of fitness, as they are physically more demanding. They may involve activities stated above as well as some hiking; travel to remote areas where tourist facilities are less developed and long days of driving and high altitude travel.

**Please contact us if you require any advice.**

### Q. What size are your tour groups?

**A.** The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is usually between 8 and 29 passengers. You may meet other tour groups travelling concurrently. Where available, on our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in comfort.

### Q. Do you run guaranteed departures?

**A.** Our most popular tours are guaranteed to depart, subject to a minimum of two passengers travelling. All other group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum of 8 passengers, and a National Escort will accompany each group of 10 or more.

### Q. As a single traveller, will I have to pay a single supplement?

**A.** No. On group tours we offer the option to share with a tour member of the same gender so there are no additional charges for travelling alone. You will be introduced to your share partner on arrival. Note that on overnight rail journeys and cruises this may not be with a Wendy Wu Tours passenger. To arrange a guaranteed private room, our single room option is available for an

extra cost (you will still be required to share on overnight rail journeys).

### Q. What is the maximum luggage allowance on your tours?

**A.** Your main suitcase or backpack must not exceed 20kg and your hand luggage must not exceed 5kg as this is the maximum allowance on internal flights.

### Q. What currency should I take?

**A.** We recommend you take sterling or US dollars as well as the local currency and a credit/debit card. We do not recommend travellers cheques. Please ensure you have sufficient funds to pay for personal expenses such as drinks, snacks, souvenirs, additional tipping and optional extras. Tipping must be in US dollars and RMB (see page 136).

### Q. Can you arrange airport lounges, parking & hotels?

**A.** Yes – we are always looking for ways to make your holiday that little bit more comfortable and convenient for you. See page 7 for details.



### Q. When is the best time to visit China?

**A.** China is a year-round destination. While spring and autumn are the most popular months to visit, many people enjoy tours at other times of the year when there are fewer tourists. See page 133.

### Q. When are Chinese public holidays?

**A.** Chinese New Year is on 19th February 2015. Their Golden Week public holidays falls annually between 1-3 May and 1-7 October. Celebrations last for several days and during this time some businesses will be closed. Tour attractions will be open, but may be crowded.

## While on tour



countryside and longer transfers where necessary. On our private tours, we use air-conditioned vehicles suitable for the size of the party.

**Air:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

**Water:** Ships or boats are used on tours which have a cruising element, from large ships on the Yangtze River to smaller boats on the Li River, Grand Canal and West Lake. To undertake these excursions, you will need to be capable of boarding and disembarking from these boats, sometimes without assistance and/or handrails.

**Rail:** Trains are used on some tours. Where there is an overnight journey we use the best available soft sleeper trains. Each compartment is shared by four people (not necessarily Wendy Wu Tours passengers). There is a western-style toilet at one end of the carriage and an Asian style toilet at the other end. The beds and cabins are basic with clean linen provided and there are no showers nor dining car. The trains are generally clean, however you cannot expect western standards.

### Q. What does escorted touring mean?

**A.** Every group tour which has 10 or more passengers travelling will be accompanied by a national escort from when you land at the airport, to when you depart. On multi-country tours, different national escorts are used in each country. Our optional extensions are not accompanied by a national escort, however you will have the benefit of our knowledgeable local guides. Transfers and flights to and from optional extension destinations are not escorted. Private tours are not accompanied by a national escort, but will be accompanied by knowledgeable local guides in each location.

### Q. What sort of vehicles do you use?

**Road:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the

### Q. Is there a dress code on your tours?

**A.** Our dress code is very relaxed; however, please note that clothing covering the arms and legs is more appropriate when visiting religious buildings.

### Q. Are meals included?

**A.** All meals (excluding beverages) are included in our group tours except where stated. Please note that on some of our Off the Beaten Track or Go Beyond Tours, meals in remote areas may be basic or repetitive. Meals included in private tours are stated in the web itineraries and include several free evenings, offering flexibility for those who wish to explore local restaurants. Meals on our group tours start with dinner on the normal day of arrival and finish with breakfast on the normal day of departure. Any additional meals will be at your own expense and no refund will be made for any meals missed. You will sample a range of local cuisine with occasional western meals, and meals are usually taken at local restaurants.



While on tour

**Q. Is tap water safe to drink?**

**A.** We strongly recommend that you drink bottled water only.

**Q. Are there any optional excursions?**

**A.** From time to time your National Escort or local guide may suggest optional sightseeing in addition to

**Q. Is Tipping Compulsory?**

**A.** Tipping is a necessary part of the tourism industry worldwide. For your convenience, total compulsory tipping amounts (including the Yangtze Cruise element) are stated on each Group Tour page (subject to change).

**If you are taking a tour without a Yangtze Cruise,** tipping in USD will be collected by your National Escort on arrival in each country and distributed on your behalf.

**If you are taking a tour which includes a Yangtze Cruise,** the total amount listed on the tour pages will be collected in two parts:  
1) A USD amount, paid to your National Escort on arrival in each country, as above;  
2) A service levy in local currency (RMB) to be paid upon boarding the Cruise vessel.

An additional, discretionary tipping amount payable in RMB may be paid to the River Guide or Cruise Director based on your satisfaction with services received.

Porterage is included on our Group Tours to China (from the coach to the lobby of each hotel).

For tours with fewer than 10 passengers, tipping will be slightly higher than stated on the group tour pages.

On Private Tours and Extensions, tipping is discretionary, we will advise recommended amounts.

**The specific break down for each currency will be outlined in your final documentation.**

the standard sightseeing planned, depending on local conditions. Such options are at an additional cost, with prices usually ranging from £10 to £30 per person. This is paid in cash (in RMB) to the guide on the day of the optional excursion – just ask your guide if you need to visit a cash machine before touring for that day commences.

**Q. Can special requests be arranged?**

**A.** If you have any special requests such as dietary requirements, or if you wish to celebrate an event, please notify us at the time of booking and we will do everything possible to ensure your requests are met. Please note that special requests cannot be guaranteed.

**Q. What is the flying time to China?**

**A.** Approx. 12 hours (if flying direct).

**Q. Do you allow children on your tours?**

**A.** We allow children 12 years and over on our group tours and welcome children aged 8 years and over on our In Pursuit of Pandas tour on page 16. Alternatively, our Private Tours (see our website) offer greater flexibility whilst on tour and are suitable for any age group.

**Q. Will I be travelling with passengers from other countries?**

**A.** Our passengers generally enjoy the mixture of British and Australian clients on tour. Occasionally we are joined by English speaking passengers from other countries.

**Q. What is the average age on your group tours?**

**A.** The average age range is 40-65. Younger and older passengers travel with us too.

**Q. What hours of the day do your tours operate?**

**A.** They generally start about 8am and end shortly after your evening meal. Occasionally earlier starts are required to meet flight departures.

**Q. How close can I get to the giant pandas?**

**A.** If your tour includes a visit to see giant pandas, you will usually get close enough for a good photo opportunity.



**Q. Which cabins are used on your Yangtze River Cruise vessels?**

**A.** We use outward facing en suite cabins with balconies. Please see our website for an overview of our Yangtze River Cruise ships.

**Q. How do standards abroad compare with the UK?**

**A.** We will do our best to ensure that your holiday is safe and trouble free and we are continually working with our local partners to maintain and improve health and safety standards. Travelling abroad involves new places and new experiences and sometimes this means different safety and hygiene standards to those we are used to in the UK. We therefore ask that you take care; pay attention at all times and use your common sense. You are also requested to refer to notices and follow advice from your national escort or local guide.

**WeCare – Health & Safety**

Your health, safety and well-being on holiday are of paramount importance to us. Wendy Wu Tours is a fully insured and bonded tour operator with comprehensive public liability cover.

Working closely with an independent health and safety organisation, the Wendy Wu Tours team carries out health and safety checks on accommodation, transport and excursions; and works with our destination partners and suppliers towards improving health and safety standards throughout the regions in which we operate. All travellers should be aware that safety standards vary across the different regions we visit and may not match the standards we enjoy in the UK.

In the unlikely event of a problem or emergency on tour, Wendy Wu Tours has a Crisis Management process in place to support all of our customers. We also have a dedicated 24 hour emergency support number.

Travel Insurance

We want you to experience a holiday that relaxes, fascinates and fills you with a lifetime of glorious memories. However, not everything is within our or indeed your control. So for complete peace of mind, you should always prepare for the unexpected before or during your holiday.

Flexible Levels of Travel Insurance



We work with Holiday Extras to provide cancellation cover, medical protection and a range of other benefits. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority, Holiday Extras have been awarded the title 'best travel insurance provider' for the past six years at the Travel Weekly Globe Awards. Our standard policies provide cover up to 85 years of age.

As an added bonus, Holiday Extras insure that under 18's go free with a paying adult on selected policies, making our insurance the perfect choice for families.

**Choose either single trip insurance or a yearly multi-trip policy.**

Single Trip Policies

Our single trip policies will cover you for any destination and tour in this brochure up to a total of 31 days (this can be extended to 60 days if under 64 years of age with no medical conditions).

Length of trip	Adult up to 64
Up to 17 days	£63.25
18-24 days	£67.50
25-31 days	£83.50
+ extra weeks	£21.00

Annual Multi-Trip Policies

These are ideal if you plan to travel abroad more than once in the year. Annual multi-trip policies provide worldwide protection for any number of trips up to 23 days duration (31 days if you are under 64), up to a total of 183 days per year.

Length of separate trip	Price
23 days	£88.50
31 days	£102.25

*Prices are based on cover for travellers aged up to 64 years. Supplements will apply if between 65 and 85. All prices are subject to change.*

Summary of Cover	Maximum
Medical emergency expenses	£10,000,000
Personal liability	£2,000,000
Personal accident	£25,000
Cancellation	£5,000
Curtailement	£5,000
Missed departure	£1,000
Travel delay	£60
Personal baggage	£2,000
Delayed baggage	£150
Catastrophe	£1,000
Personal money / passport	£300
Medical inconvenience	£600
Dental emergency	£150
Personal assistance	£250
Legal expenses	£25,000

Latitude – for those with pre-existing medical conditions

As well as those flexible policies, Holiday Extras' is home to the Latitude policy. This means that almost everyone up to the age of 89 with pre-existing medical conditions can get comprehensive travel insurance at a great price. In fact, 97% of all conditions can be covered.

**For pre-existing medical conditions insurance enquiries, please call Holiday Extras on 0800 781 4086 quoting W7994.**



## Wendy Wu Tours Booking Conditions

The following booking conditions form the basis of your contract with Wendy Wu Tours Ltd, Ground Floor, Cottons Centre, Cottons Lane, 47-49 Tooley St, London SE1 2QG, company number 05107061. Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. By asking us to confirm your booking, you confirm that you have had the opportunity to read and have read these booking conditions, the brochure and tour dossier and agree to be bound by them.

These booking conditions only apply to holiday arrangements which you book with us in the UK and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you. All references in these booking conditions to "holiday", "booking", "contract", "package", "tour" or "arrangements" mean such holiday arrangements unless otherwise stated.

For tailor-made holidays, please refer to our Asia Inspirations brochure and terms and conditions or visit www.asiainspirations.co.uk.

In these booking conditions, "you" and "your" means all persons named on the booking (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date) or any of them as the context requires. "We," "us" and "our" means Wendy Wu Tours Limited.

### 1. Your Holiday Contract

The first named person on the booking ("lead name") must be authorised to make a booking on the basis of these booking conditions by all persons named on the booking and by their parent or guardian for all party members who are under 18 when the booking is made. By making a booking the lead name confirms that he/she is so authorised. The lead name is responsible for making all payments due to us and to indemnify us for the liability of all party members. The lead name must be at least 18 when the booking is made.

After we receive your booking request and all appropriate payments (see clause 4 "Payment" below), if the arrangements you wish to book are available, we will issue a confirmation invoice. A binding agreement will come into existence between us when we dispatch this invoice to the 'lead name' or your Travel Agent. We both agree that English Law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us ("claim") (except as set out below). We both also agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) must be dealt with under the ABTA arbitration scheme (if the scheme is available for the claim in question and you wish to use it – see clause 14) or by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of Court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings can either be brought in the Courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and claim governed by the law of Scotland/ Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

Your invoice will be sent to your travel agent or the lead name on the booking if you have booked direct with us. Please check this invoice carefully as soon as you receive it. Contact us immediately if any information which appears on the confirmation or any other document appears to be incorrect or incomplete as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies (for which we are responsible) in any document within ten days of our sending it out (five days for tickets). We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time limits but you must meet any costs involved in doing so.

If you wish to change or cancel any arrangements later you may have to pay an amendment or cancellation charge (See Clause 8).

### 2. Your financial protection

We hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL number 6639). When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday\* from us, you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists the flight, accommodation, car hire and/ or other services that are financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you, and who to contact if things go wrong. We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

\*The flights and flight-inclusive holidays we arrange are ATOL protected providing they are made available in the UK. For further information visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk.

We are a member of ABTA (ABTA number W7994). If your holiday does not include flights, ABTA will financially protect your holiday by ensuring you receive a refund or, if your arrangements include return travel to the UK (other than flights) you are returned to the UK in the event that your holiday cannot be provided as a result of our insolvency. Please go to www.abta.com for a copy of the guide to ABTA's scheme of Financial Protection.

ABTA and ABTA members help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist them when things do not go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct.

For further information about ABTA, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration scheme available to you if you have a complaint (see clause 14), contact ABTA at 30 Park Street, London, SE1 9EQ or see www.abta.com.

### 3. Your Holiday Price

Please note, changes and errors occasionally occur. You must check the price of your chosen holiday at the time of booking.

The cost of your travel arrangements was calculated using known costs and exchange rates of £1 to 1.708USD and £1 to 10.60CNY on 21 July 2014.

We reserve the right to increase / decrease and correct errors in advertised prices at any time before your holiday is confirmed. We will advise you of any error of which we are aware and of the then applicable price at the time of booking.

Once the price of your chosen holiday has been confirmed at the time of booking, then subject to the correction of errors, we will only increase or decrease the price in the following circumstances. Price increases or decreases after booking will be passed on by way of a surcharge or refund.

A surcharge or refund (as applicable) will be payable, subject to the conditions set out in this clause, in the event of any change in our transportation costs or in dues, taxes or fees payable for services such as landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports or airports or in the exchange rates which have been used to calculate the cost of your holiday.

Even in the above cases, only if the amount of any increase in our costs exceeds 2% of the total cost of your holiday (excluding insurance premiums and any amendment charges) will we levy a surcharge. If any surcharge is greater than 10% of the cost of your holiday (excluding insurance premiums and any amendment charges), you will be entitled to cancel your booking and

receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us (except for any amendment charges) or alternatively purchase another holiday from us as referred to in clause 9\*if we change or cancel your holiday". Although insurance (where purchased through us) does not form part of your contract with us or of any "package", we will consider an appropriate refund of any insurance premiums you have paid us if you can show you are unable to use/reuse or transfer your policy in the event of cancellation or purchase of an alternative holiday.

Where applicable, you have 14 days from the issue date printed on the surcharge invoice to tell us if you want to choose option (b) or (c) as set out in clause 9 below. If you do not tell us that you wish to choose either of these options within this period of time, we are entitled to assume that you do not wish to do so and will pay the surcharge. Any surcharge must be paid with the balance of the cost of the holiday or within 14 days of the issue date printed on the surcharge invoice, whichever is the later.

Please note that arrangements are not always purchased in local currency and some apparent changes have no impact on the price of your holiday due to contractual and other protection in place.

A refund will only be payable if the decrease in our costs exceeds 2% of the total cost of your holiday as set out above. Where a refund is due, we will pay you the full amount of the decrease in our costs.

We promise not to levy a surcharge within 30 days of departure. No refund will be payable if any decrease in our costs occurs during this period either.

### 4.Payment

In order to confirm your chosen holiday, a deposit of at least £350.00 per person (or full payment if booking within 60 days of departure) must be paid at the time of booking. In some cases the amount of deposit may be higher: where, for example, we need to pre-purchase flights tickets, accommodation or other services. If you wish to purchase the insurance policy we offer, all applicable premiums must also be paid at the time of booking (you must be insured – please see clause 6 on the subject of insurance).

The balance of the holiday cost must be received by us not less than 60 days prior to departure. This date will be shown on the confirmation invoice. Reminders are not sent.

Our preferred method of deposit payment is by bank debit card or credit card. Balance payment may be made by cash, bank debit card, credit card or cheque (providing there is time to clear it to meet the payment schedule shown above - you should allow 5 working days for clearance from the time we receive it). No charge will be made for deposits and balances paid by Debit Card/Switch/Delta. However, in line with most major operators, we will make a charge of 2% for deposits and balances paid by credit card. If we do not receive all payments due (including any surcharge where applicable) in full and on time, we are entitled to assume that you wish to cancel your booking. In this case, we will be entitled to keep all deposits paid or due at that date.

Except for flight inclusive bookings, all monies you pay to one of our authorised travel agents for your holiday with us will be held by the agent on your behalf until a contract between us comes into existence. After that point, your agent will hold the monies on our behalf until they are paid to us. For flight inclusive bookings, all monies paid to any authorised travel agent of ours for your holiday with us will be held on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust subject to the travel agent's obligation to pay such monies to us in accordance with our trading terms unless we fail. In the unlikely event of our financial failure, all monies then held by the travel agent or subsequently paid by you to the travel agent will be held by the agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust without any obligation on the agent to pay such monies to us.

### 5. Travel documents and visas

A Passport with a minimum of six months validity from the intended date of Travel, and contain a minimum of two blank visa pages, is required for travel for all countries in our programme. Visa fees, where required, are included for UK and EU passport holders in all fully inclusive group packages with the exception of holidays to Laos. Non UK passport holders will incur Visa fees at their own expense. Failure to forward passports to Wendy Wu Tours by the date specified on your confirmation invoice so that we can process your Visa application may incur further charges to cover expedited Visa processing. Unless otherwise requested your passport will be returned approximately 4 weeks after receipt by Royal Mail Special Delivery. A charge will be made for faster processing. It is your responsibility to ensure the visa issued to you is correct. Whilst we include the cost of the standard visa application service in your tour price (for UK and EU passport holders), we will pass on any additional charges incurred for non-standard visa processing, or where visa charges are increased following publication of the brochure. Should your visa application be refused for any reason and you wish to cancel your booking the cancellation charges under clause 8 will apply. We make no promises that your Visa application will be successful and we cannot accept bookings conditional on the issuing of a Visa.

Responsibility for documentation accuracy, passport validity and dispatch of documents rests with you. Wendy Wu Tours accepts no responsibility in this regard. Passports and applications should be sent by tracked delivery or in person. We accept no responsibility for passports lost in the post.

It is the responsibility of each passenger to ensure that you carry all necessary passport, visa and other travel documentation as required by the country you are visiting, and that all documents are in date and valid. We do not accept responsibility if you cannot travel because you have not complied with any passport, visa or immigration requirements for any part of your holiday. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges or other financial penalty being imposed on us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us in full.

### 6. Travel Insurance, Health and Safety

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance covering at least circumstances leading to the cancellation of your booking and providing sufficient medical cover for illness or injury and repatriation while overseas. You must provide us with the name of your insurers and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking. You will indemnify Wendy Wu Tours in respect of any assistance or payment made by us in these circumstances.

Details of any compulsory health requirements applicable to British citizens for your holiday are available from the websites listed below. It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all recommended vaccinations and health precautions in good time before departure. Details are available from your GP surgery and from the National Travel Health Network and Centre www.nathnac.org. Information on health can be found at www.nhs.uk and

www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk. For holidays in the EU / EEA you should obtain an EHC (European Health Insurance Card) prior to departure from the Department of Health (www.dh.gov.uk). Health requirements and recommendations may change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office publishes regularly updated travel information on its website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice which you are recommended to consult before booking and in good time before departure.

### 7. If you wish to change your booking

If, after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you wish to change your travel arrangements in any way, we will endeavour to make these changes, but it may not always be possible. Any request for changes to be made must be from the lead name on the booking or your Travel Agent. You will be asked to pay an administration charge as set out below per person and any further cost we incur together with any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this alteration. Examples include:

- Minor amendments to the tour booked - £20
- Minor amendments made within 30 days of departure - £30
- Transferring between tours or changing departure date - £50
- Transferring between tours or changing departure date within 60 days of departure is not permitted and cancellation fees will apply
- Reissue of airline tickets - £50 plus any non-refundable costs of the cancelled ticket and any additional costs of the new ticket
- Once a booking is confirmed no name transfers are permitted within 60 days of departure and will be regarded as a cancellation and cancellation fees apply

It is important to note that some arrangements such as certain types of air tickets cannot be changed after a booking has been made as they are sold as part of your fixed package: any change will be treated as a cancellation in which case cancellation charges will apply.

### 8. If you wish to cancel your booking

Because we start to incur costs in relation to your arrangements from the time we confirm your booking, if you cancel we have to make a charge and the nearer to your departure date you cancel, the higher the charge will be. If you wish to cancel a confirmed booking you must do so by writing to our head office. Cancellation takes effect from the day we receive your letter. Cancellation charges are shown in the table below and will be payable immediately on cancellation. Where the cancellation charge is shown as a percentage, this is calculated on the basis of the total cost payable by the person(s) cancelling excluding insurance premiums and amendment charges. Insurance premiums and amendment charges are not refundable in the event of cancellation:

61 or more days	Retention of deposit
60 – 42 days	30% including deposit
41 – 28 days	60% including deposit
27 – 15 days	90% including deposit
14 days or less	100% including deposit

Depending on the reason for cancellation, you may be able to reclaim these cancellation charges (less any applicable excess) under the terms of your insurance policy. Claims must be made directly to the insurance company concerned and we have no liability in these circumstances.

### 9. If we change or cancel your holiday

We start planning the holidays we offer many months in advance. Occasionally, we have to make changes to and correct errors in brochure and other details both before and after bookings have been confirmed and cancel confirmed bookings. Whilst we always endeavour to avoid changes and cancellations, we must reserve the right to do so. The right is also reserved to change airline, aircraft types and vessels scheduled for any specific departure. Even after we have confirmed your booking we may have to make alterations to confirmed arrangements. Most such alterations will be minor and of little effect on your overall arrangements and while we will do our best to notify you of any such minor change before your departure, we will have no other liability to you. Occasionally we may have to make a significant change to your confirmed arrangements.

Significant changes include but are not limited to the following (which are illustrative):

- Change of UK departure airport. (A change from one London airport to another is not considered a major change. London airports are Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and London City)
- Change of your time of departure or return by more than 12 hours
- Change of resort
- Change of holiday accommodation to accommodation of a lower official rating.

If we have to make a significant change, we will notify you as quickly as possible and offer you the following options:

- (a) (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements or
- (b) purchasing an alternative holiday from us, of a similar standard to that originally booked if available. We will offer you at least one alternative holiday of equivalent or higher standard for which you will not be asked to pay any more than the price of the original holiday. If this holiday is in fact cheaper than the original one, we will refund the price difference. If you do not wish to accept the holiday we specifically offer, you may choose any of our other then available holidays. You must pay the applicable price of any such holiday. This will mean your paying more if it is more expensive or receiving a refund if it is cheaper or
- (c) cancelling or accepting the cancellation in which case you will receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us

In addition, if you choose (a) or (b) above, and the change is not due to 'force majeure'(see clause 10 "Force Majeure"), you will receive as compensation a credit towards the cost of your arrangements, or any alternative selected, of the amount shown in Scale A below. If you choose (c) we will pay you compensation of the amount shown in Scale B below. In all cases we will have no liability for any other or greater compensation, or for expenses or losses incurred as a result of any change.

Period before departure date notification given by us	Credit/Compensation per fare paying passenger (excluding children)	
	Scale A	Scale B
0 – 7 days	£50	£25
8 – 14 days	£40	£20
15 – 28 days	£30	£15
29 – 42 days	£20	£10
43 – 56 days	£10	£5

No compensation will be payable and the above options will not be available if we cancel as a result of your failure to comply with any requirement of these booking conditions entitling us to cancel (such as going on time) or where a change is a minor one.

### 10. Our liability to you

(1) We will take reasonable care to ensure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these booking conditions, we may accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury as your contracted holiday arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a result solely of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted holiday arrangements. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used and you have suffered loss as a result if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers).

(2) We will not be responsible for any injury, illness, death, loss (for example loss of enjoyment), damage, expense, cost or other sum or claim of any description whatsoever which results from any of the following:

- the act(s) and/or omission(s) of the person(s) affected or any member(s) of their party or
- the act(s) and/or omission(s) of a third party not connected with the provision of your holiday and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable or
- 'force majeure' as defined in clause 11 below

(3) Please note, we cannot accept responsibility for any services which do not form part of our contract. This includes, for example, any additional services or facilities which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where the services or facilities are not advertised by us and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract including any excursion you purchase in resort. Please also see clause 12 "Excursions". In addition, regardless of any wording used by us on our website, in any advertising material or elsewhere, we only promise to use reasonable skill and care in performing our contractual obligation as set out above and do not have any greater or different liability to you.

(4) The promises we make to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of our contract – and the laws, regulations and relevant standards of the country in which your claim or complaint occurred – will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. If the particular services which gave rise to the claim or complaint complied with local laws and regulations applicable to those services at the time, the services will be treated as having been properly provided. This will be the case even if the services did not comply with the laws and regulations of the UK which would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim or complaint concerns the absence of a safety feature which might lead a reasonable holiday maker to refuse to take the holiday in question. Please note, however, our obligation is to exercise reasonable skill and care as referred to in clause 10(1). We do not make any representation or commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and regulations and failure to comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care.

(5) As set out in these booking conditions, we limit the maximum amount we may have to pay you for any claims you may make against us.

Where we are found liable for loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions (including money), the maximum amount we will have to pay you is £1,500 per person affected unless a different limitation applies to your claim under this clause or clause 10(6) below. You must ensure you have appropriate travel insurance to protect your personal belongings.

For all other claims which do not involve death or personal injury, if we are found liable to you on any basis the maximum amount we will have to pay you is twice the price (excluding insurance premiums and amendment charges) paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total unless a lower limitation applies to your claim under clause 10(6) below. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you have not received any benefit at all from your holiday.

(6) Where any claim or part of a claim (including those involving death or personal injury) concerns or is based on any travel arrangements (including the process of getting on and/ or off the transport concerned) provided by any air, sea, rail or road carrier to which any international convention or regulation applies, the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you will be limited. The most we will have to pay you for that claim or that part of a claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier concerned would have to pay under the international convention or regulation which applies to the travel arrangements in question (for example, the Warsaw Convention as amended or unamended and the Montreal Convention for international travel by air and/or for airlines with an operating licence granted by an EU country, the EC Regulation on Air Carrier Liability No 889/2002 for national and international travel by air, the Athens Convention for international travel by sea and COTIF, the Convention on International Travel by Rail). Where a carrier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or regulation in respect of a claim or part of a claim, we similarly are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim or part of the claim. When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the carrier for the claim in question. Copies of the applicable international conventions and regulations are available from us on request.

(7) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any description (1) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you or (2) which did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees or, where we are responsible for them, our suppliers. Additionally we cannot accept liability for any business losses including self employed loss of earnings.

### 11. Force Majeure

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, we regret we will not accept liability or pay any compensation where the performance or prompt performance of our obligations under our contract with you is prevented or affected by or you otherwise suffer any damage, loss or expense of any nature as a result of "force majeure". In these booking conditions, "force majeure" means any event, or the consequences of which, we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events are not limited to but may include actual or threatened war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, volcanic activity, seismic activity, fire, pandemics, epidemics and all similar events, natural or man made, outside our control or that of our agents or suppliers.

### 12. Excursions

We may provide you with information (before departure and/or when you are on holiday) about activities and excursions which are available in the area you are visiting. We have no involvement in any such activities or excursions which are neither run, supervised nor controlled in any way by us. They are provided by local operators or other third parties who are entirely independent of us. They do not form any part of your contract with us even where we suggest particular operators/other third parties and/or assist you in booking such activities or excursions in any way. We cannot accept any liability on any basis in relation to such activities or excursions and the acceptance of liability contained in clause 10(1) of our booking conditions will not apply to them. We do not however exclude liability for the negligence of ourselves or our employees resulting in your death or personal injury.

We cannot guarantee accuracy at all times of information given in relation to such activities or excursions or about the area you are visiting generally or that any particular excursion or activity which does not form part of our contract will take place as these services are not under our control. If you feel that any of the activities or excursions referred to in our brochure, on our website and in our other advertising material which are not part of our contract are vital to the enjoyment of your holiday, write to us immediately and we will tell you the latest known situation. If we become aware of any material alterations to area information and/or such outside activities or excursions which can reasonably be expected to affect your decision to book a holiday with us, we will pass on this information at the time of booking.

### 13. Complaint procedure

If you have a problem during your holiday concerning any service provided as part of the arrangements we have confirmed, you must inform our National Escort or Local Guide (or, if none available, with our local agent or hotel manager) immediately to enable them to try to resolve the matter. Any notification must be put in writing and given to our representative / agent and the supplier as soon as possible. Our emergency number is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is 07984 041625. Until we know about a complaint or problem, we cannot begin to resolve it. If you remain dissatisfied, however, you must write to us within 28 days of your return to the UK giving your booking reference and full details of your complaint. Only the lead name should write to us. If you fail to follow this simple complaints procedure, your right to claim any compensation you may otherwise have been entitled to may be affected or even lost as a result.

### 14. Arbitration

Disputes arising out of, or in connection with your booking which cannot be amicably settled may be referred to arbitration if you so wish under a special scheme arranged by ABTA Ltd and administered independently. The scheme provides for a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone with restricted liability on the customer in respect of costs. Full details will be provided on request or can be obtained from the ABTA website (www.abta.com). The scheme does not apply to claims for an amount greater than £5,000 per person. There is also a limit of £25,000 per booking. Neither does it apply to claims which are solely in respect of physical injury or illness or their consequences. The scheme can however deal with compensation claims which include an element of minor injury or illness subject to a limit of £1,500 on the amount the arbitrator can award per person in respect of this element. Your application for arbitration and other required documents must be received by ABTA within 18 months of your return from the holiday. Outside this time limit arbitration under the scheme may still be available if we agree, although the ABTA Code does not require such agreement.

For injury and illness claims, you can request the ABTA mediation procedure and we have the option to agree to this. Where we act as agent, please bear in mind that your contract is with the supplier of the arrangements concerned. Unless the supplier is also a member of ABTA, only disputes relating to our actions as agent can be dealt with by the arbitration scheme or mediation procedure and not complaints about the arrangements themselves or the acts / omissions of the supplier.

### 15.Conditions of Suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions (see clause 10(4)). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions and of the international conventions are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

### 16. Behaviour

When you book a Holiday with Wendy Wu Tours Limited you accept responsibility for the proper conduct for yourself and your party whilst on Holiday. If we or any other person in authority is of the reasonable opinion that you or any member of your party is behaving in such a way as to cause or be likely to cause danger or upset to any other person or damage to property, we will be entitled to terminate the holiday of the person(s) concerned. The person(s) concerned will be required to leave the accommodation or other service and we will have no further responsibility to them including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of the termination. You will be responsible for making full payment for any damage or loss caused by you or any member of your party during your time away. Payment must be paid directly at the time to the service supplier concerned. If the actual cost of the loss or damage exceeds the amount paid where estimated, you must pay the difference once known. If the actual cost is less than the amount paid, the difference will be refunded. You will also be responsible for meeting any claims subsequently made against us and all costs incurred by us (including our own and the other party's full legal costs) as a result of your actions.

### 17. Special Requests

If you have any special requests, you must inform us prior to booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability. Unless you receive written confirmation from the supplier that a special request will be complied with, you must assume that it will not be. The responsibility for providing the special request lies solely with the supplier and not with Wendy Wu Tours.

We regret we cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as "standard" bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests.

18. Fitness, Medical Conditions & Disabilities

Please note that China and the surrounding regions is a vast area with varying terrain (including steps, steep hills and uneven walkways) which can be difficult to negotiate. An indicated 'tour pace' is outlined clearly in this brochure and in the tour specific Tour Dossiers. It is your sole responsibility to ensure that you are sufficiently fit and well to negotiate these areas, without any adverse effect on the overall group or tour operation. You should check that your proposed areas of travel are suitable dependant on your own health, including any medical condition and/or disability that you may have.

If you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), please tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. Should this condition not be met, Wendy Wu Tours reserves the right to terminate the holiday of the person(s) involved, as described in section 16.

### 19. Flights

In accordance with EU Directive (EC) No 2111/2005 Article 9, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a "Community list" which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban within the EU. The Community list is available for inspection at http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban/list\_en.htm.

In accordance with EU Regulations we are required to advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s) that will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible.

If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to an operating ban as above as a result of which we/ the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative the provisions of clause 9 "If we change or cancel your holiday" will apply. We are not always in a position at the time of booking to confirm the flight timings which will be used in connection with your flight. The flight timings shown on our brochure, on our website and/or detailed on your confirmation invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration and confirmation. Flight timings are outside our control. They are set by airlines and are subject to various factors including air traffic control restrictions, weather conditions, potential technical problems and the ability of passengers to check in on time.

Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements will be sent with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 weeks before departure. You must accordingly check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after tickets have been despatched - we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs.

Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these conditions.

### 20. Delay and Denied Boarding Regulations

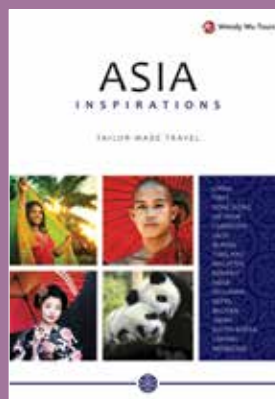
In the event of any flight delay or cancellation at your UK or overseas point of departure, the airline is responsible for providing such assistance as is legally required by the Denied Boarding Regulations (see below). The ferry, tunnel or rail operator is similarly responsible in relation to any delayed or cancelled sea crossing or international rail departure. Except where otherwise stated in our brochure or on our website, we cannot provide any assistance in such circumstances other than information and advice to the extent we are in a position to do so. Any airline concerned may however provide refreshments etc.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in clause 10(2) of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time). In addition, we will not be liable for any delay unless it has a significant effect on your holiday arrangements.

If your flight is cancelled or delayed, your flight ticket is downgraded or boarding is denied by your airline, depending on the circumstances, the airline may be required to pay you compensation, refund the cost of your flight and/or provide you with accommodation and/ or refreshments under EC Regulation No 261/2004 - the Denied Boarding Regulations 2004. Where

# Top reasons to choose Wendy Wu Tours

- Over 16 years' experience
- Unrivalled knowledge and expertise
- Comprehensive range of group, private and tailor-made holidays
- Depart from many regional UK airports
- Fully inclusive prices with no hidden extras
- Quality hotels and comfortable transport
- Outstanding customer satisfaction
- Award winning guides
- Specialist advice from our experienced consultants
- Authentic dining and delicious local cuisine
- Hassle-free visa service included
- Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL & IATA

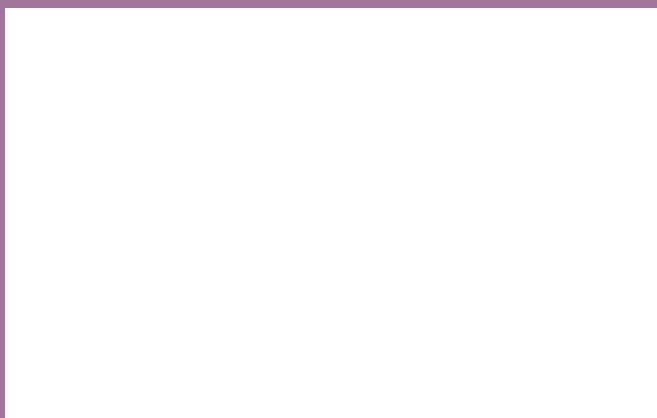


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To book call 0844 499 3899 or see your preferred Travel Agent



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Opening Hours:  
Mon-Fri 9:00am – 5:30pm  
Sat-Sun 10:00am – 4:00pm

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