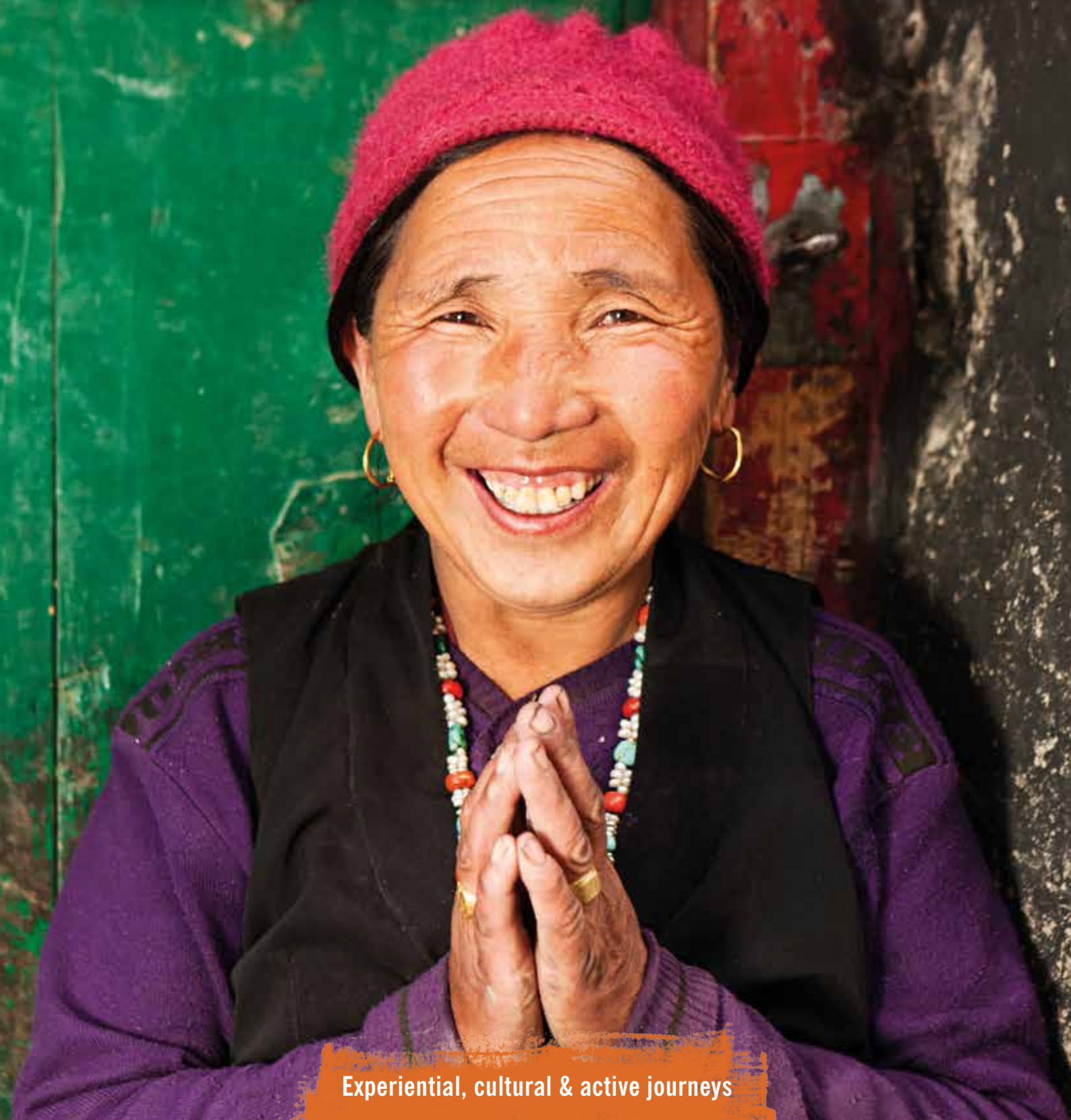


Immerse Yourself

China | Tibet | Japan | Mongolia | Central Asia | Southeast Asia | India | Nepal



Experiential, cultural & active journeys

See Asia differently...

For 20 years Wendy Wu Tours have been blazing trails into Asia, pushing boundaries and opening up unseen regions of this fascinating continent for the thousands of travellers that book with us each year. We passionately believe that Asia is a place of adventure, full of diverse cultures, rich in heritage and grand nature, and all of our enthusiasm and insider knowledge brings this to life.

Tours in our Immerse Yourself range are designed to give you a deeper and more authentic understanding of the region. Visit both iconic and lesser visited locations

and get closer to local culture – on foot, by bicycle, over land and water. This is your invitation to see diverse, quirky and beautiful Asia differently with Wendy Wu Tours.



Wendy Wu

Wendy Wu – Owner, Wendy Wu Tours

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Go on, Immerse Yourself

Truly discovering a destination means much more than just seeing it. It means immersing yourself in the local culture and venturing beyond the tourist trail.

Tours in our Immerse Yourself range are characterised by engaging cultural experiences, active adventures and getting off the beaten track. We aim to include as much variety as possible so that no two days on your holiday will be alike. You'll gain a deep understanding of your destination and experience more, but you'll still see all the major sights.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- ✓ Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (subject to change)
- ✓ All accommodation
- ✓ All or most meals
- ✓ English speaking National Escort and local guides
- ✓ Visa fees for UK and EU passport holders
- ✓ Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- ✓ Comprehensive tour dossiers and travel guides
- ✓ Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions and shows, insurance of any kind and additional tipping.

WHAT MAKES AN IMMERSE YOURSELF TOUR?

CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

A country is defined by its culture and discovery is by participation. Join a Tai Chi class and meditate on a mountain; try Japanese drumming and stay in a Buddhist Temple; explore Saigon on the back of a Vespa and take part in an alms-giving ceremony. Don't just see it, do it.

ACTIVE ADVENTURES

By getting on a bike or taking a hike you can see more of the scenery and local life. Trek to Vietnam's hilltribe villages, cycle through the stunning scenery of Yangshuo and hike in the Himalayan foothills. The more physical activities are optional on our flexible tours.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

This can mean venturing to remote destinations such as the Tibetan Plateau and Gobi Desert or visiting the long-necked Paduang tribe in Burma. Or it can simply be seeing more common sights from a different viewpoint: trekking on a wild part of the Great Wall, working with a local farmer in Hoi An or cycling around the backstreets of Udaipur.

MORE FREEDOM

Usually travelling in groups of 18 or less we'll have more flexibility to explore. And with evenings often free, you'll get the chance to discover the local culture and cuisine for yourself. For maximum choice look out for our Flexible tours with time set aside for your own adventures or to join a range of optional activities.

TOUR GRADING

ACTIVE



These tours feature physically demanding activities which require a good level of fitness. This could include: embarking on a challenging yet rewarding hike; hopping on a bike and exploring the countryside; visiting remote locations; and spending time in areas of high altitude.

MODERATE



These journeys, though less physical than our active tours, still feature a lot of time on your feet walking and sightseeing. They are still packed with unique elements, but will be less active in nature, and will not travel to such remote locations.

FLEXIBLE



Tours with a flexible grading offer more free time. This may be used for your own exploration or to select from a range of options. Usually the more physical activities are optional so you can tailor the tour to your own abilities and interests.

ALTITUDE



In search of authentic experiences and adventure, some of our tours visit regions or sites that are more than 3,000 metres above sea level. These tours will be marked with this symbol.

TOUR DOSSIERS

It is essential that you read the full details of your chosen tour in the tour dossier. The tour dossier will give your detailed tour information including descriptions of activities involved, altitude, travel times and so on – you need to be sure that you are comfortable with all these elements before you decide to book.

If you have an existing medical condition, we recommend checking with your doctor before travelling. Tour dossiers can be found on our website. If you have any questions, please contact our reservations team.

Travellers' Tales

ARE THESE TOURS FOR ME?

Who better to help you decide than your fellow travellers and the Asia experts themselves?



BEVERLY

"The drumming class in Tokyo was so much fun. Of course, we just learnt the basics but it is so fascinating to be able to have a go at a traditional Japanese art form. By the end of the lesson the whole group were all playing along together, what an achievement!"



JOHN & SANDRA

"We enjoy our food, so the street food tour in Hanoi was fantastic for us. We got to taste a few typically Vietnamese snacks, cooked freshly in front of us, both sweet and savoury. This is the kind of stuff you'd not find in even a local restaurant and it was all delicious. We couldn't recommend this more highly!"

MICHAEL

"The view of Everest from base camp is an image that I will never, ever forget. We were extremely lucky to have the perfect view of the north face of the mountain with blue skies behind it. Even wandering around base camp was a fascinating experience, there is even a post office here, the world's highest, and several people sent postcards home."



SEAN & SARAH

"Hiking on the Great Wall was a challenge but it is one of the best things we've done! We got to walk along one of the most impressive structures on earth, following it through incredible landscapes and climbing up high passes; it gave a much better insight into the scale of it and we even had some sections to ourselves."

feefo ★★★★★
Service rating: 4.7/5

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.

Your Tour Guides

Our National Escorts are an essential part of all tours in our Immerse Yourself range. With their local upbringing they are fully aware of the regional customs and the cultural activities in which you will participate. And with many of the tours venturing away from the beaten track, their unrivalled knowledge is invaluable. Even when you have free time your guide will be there to make suggestions and help you on your way.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

I always enjoy taking my groups to the Farmer and Fisherman experience in Hoi An – it's fantastic to see the guests trying their hand at traditional Vietnamese activities and enjoying them too.

It is the best way to learn about Vietnamese rural life. There are always some very funny photo opportunities, especially when people are trying to paddle our round bamboo basket boats!



Hoang Ngoc Loc

CHINA

The best thing about being a guide on an Immerse Yourself tour is getting to introduce my groups to the culture of my country. Leading my guests on hikes through the Longji rice terraces to meet the communities of the ethnic villages is a great way to introduce them to China's diversity, whilst Tai Chi in the park of Temple of Heaven is just one of the everyday activities they can try.



Sophie Jin

INDIA

I really enjoy taking my groups on the jeep safari into the desert, we all have a lot of fun together! We get to escape from the city and spend some time in rural

Rajasthan, which shows a completely different side to India in the most unique surrounding. We also get to spend some time with local people and learn about their way of life and even do a bit of shopping and see all of the handicrafts that the people produce.



Vishal Srinivasan

JAPAN

I really enjoy teaching people about my culture, and the best thing about Trails of Japan is the amount of cultural activities that are included – it makes my job so much easier.



Takako

There is traditional drumming, dressing up in a kimono, a tea ceremony, kaiseki dinner, sake tasting and a hike around the base of Fujisan, as well as spending the night at an old temple. What better introduction to my beautiful country and its unique culture.

CHINA & JAPAN

OUR TOP TEN CHINA & JAPAN ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

1 HIKE ON THE GREAT WALL

Take a spectacular hike over a quieter and more rugged section of this iconic edifice as it snakes over forested hills, taking time to absorb the centuries-old history it represents.

2 WALK THE LONGJI RICE TERRACES

Resembling a winding, staircase, the rice terraces will take your breath away. A challenging but rewarding hike takes you past minority villages and spectacular views.

3 CYCLE OR RAFT IN YANGSHUO

Cycle through the serene sea of pastures and paddy fields, or drift quietly down the Yulong River on a bamboo raft; both watched over by the towering limestone peaks for which the area is so famous.

4 DUJIANGYAN PANDA RESERVE

Close to Chengdu and at the foot of Mt Qingcheng, you can visit the charming and beautiful pandas of Dujiangyan. Smaller and less visited than neighbouring reserves, but still easily accessible, Dujiangyan provides a home very similar to the pandas' natural habitat.

5 SNOW MONKEYS

The Japanese Macaque are a delight to watch as they bathe in natural hot pools close to the alpine town of Yudanaka, Japan.

6 PINGLE ANCIENT TOWN

Visit Pingle Ancient Town, walk through the nearby bamboo forest and cross the spectacular Jinji Rope Bridge.

9 CYCLE XIAN'S CITY WALLS

Xian's old city walls are 12 metres high, 15 metres wide and 14 kilometres long and one of the best-preserved in China. Hopping on a bike and pedalling around them is a great way to admire this great fortification and to see Xian from above.

7 SHANGHAI MORNINGS

Spend a morning like the native Shanghainese by taking a walking tour through the city's colourful concessions.

8 TIBETAN VILLAGE IN ZHONGDIAN

Pay a visit to a local family in rural Zhongdian, where you will dine with your local hosts and learn about their way of life.

10 KOYA-SAN

Known primarily as the centre of the Shingon Buddhism, Koya-San sits in the mountains and is the ideal spot to take a glimpse into Japan's traditional religious life. Stay overnight at a temple lodging and join the monks in prayers.



CHINA EXPLORER

Experience the classic sights of China in an active and immersive way. Hike on the Great Wall at Jinshanling, discover atmospheric ancient towns and meet the pandas in Dujiangyan. There's also time for a relaxing Yangtze cruise.

CHINA

time to wander the cobbled alleyways and learn about its colourful history. Later, board your Yangtze Cruise vessel, home for the next three nights. (B,D)

■ **Days 11-12: Yangtze River Cruise**
During your Yangtze cruise, nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges.

Over the next two days, prepare for one breathtaking panorama after another. Take fascinating side trips to Shibaozhai or the Fengdu Relocation Village and Goddess or Shennong Stream. This is a chance to absorb extraordinary countryside and get a glimpse of life on the river banks. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 13: Three Gorges Dam**
Visit the Three Gorges Dam, then fly to Shanghai. On arrival, the evening is at leisure to begin exploring this neon wonder. (B,L)

■ **Day 14: Shanghainese Shanghai**
Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai and take a breakfast walking tour between shimmering skyscrapers and traditional streets. Walk through the city's most fascinating districts, marvelling at monuments and rickety buildings before enjoying breakfast as the locals do – sample pancakes, fried bread sticks and tofu. Visit the Yu Garden, the old town and the Silk Museum before taking an evening stroll along the Bund and enjoying a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghainese cuisine. Your final farewell to China will be a cruise down the Huangpu River, serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 15: Fly Shanghai to UK**
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

15 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £3,490 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 13 BREAKFASTS, 11 LUNCHES, 9 DINNERS ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Great Wall Hike

Hike along the back of rugged Jinshanling as the Great Wall drapes lazily over the mountains, stopping to appreciate stunning views and fascinating history.



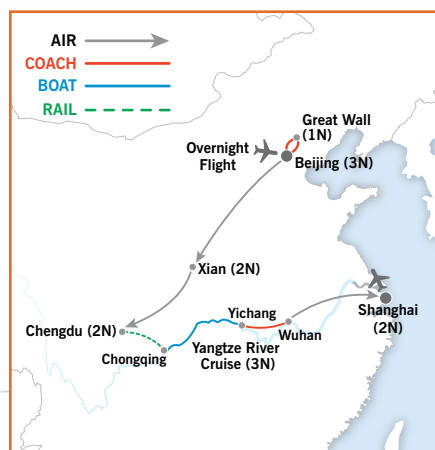
Jinji Rope Bridge

Suspended over a dramatic gorge filled with lush bamboo, the Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge offers breathtaking views and an exhilarating experience.



Dujiangyan Pandas

Smaller than Chengdu but benefitting from a leafier, more remote location, Dujiangyan is the perfect place to meet China's cuddliest icon.



■ 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: Forbidden City and Summer Palace Walk

Stroll across Tiananmen Square into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Walking through this ornately designed complex offers an unsurpassed insight into

China's colourful past. Continue to the idyllic Summer Palace and explore the magnificent grounds, before taking a walk up Longevity Hill to enjoy panoramic views. (B,L,D)

■ Day 4: Beijing's Hutongs

Arrive early for a visit to the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day with Tai Chi, dancing and card playing in a flurry of sociable activity you would never see in a park at home. Next, you'll visit Yandaixiejie, where you'll have some free time to wander around the hutongs; these narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home before driving to Simatai Great Wall. Ride up to the apex of the Wall by cable car to see the sunset. (B,L,D)

■ Day 5: Hike the Great Wall

Travel to the Great Wall at Jinshanling, a section that is much less frequented by tourists than other parts. The stark yet magnificent surroundings allow you to put yourself in the shoes of those who walked this incredible structure hundreds of years ago. Your trek will last approximately four hours as the wall courses through dramatic landscapes and

rugged terrain. Later, head back to Beijing, where you'll have free time. Buzzing Sanlitun or lakeside Houhai are a great choice for the evening. (B,L)

■ Day 6: Explore Xian

Fly to Xian and enjoy a walking tour of the narrow and winding streets of the Muslim Quarter. Sample delicious, freshly cooked snacks, and gain an insight into the city's fascinating culture and significance as the start of the Silk Road. Take in an optional fountain and light show and be dazzled by the city at night. (B,L,D)

■ Day 7: Terracotta Warriors

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor in the afterlife. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, each one unique, whilst your guide introduces you to these life-like soldiers' fascinating story. Visit the Xian Art Ceramics and Lacquer Exhibition. Return to Xian, the ancient former capital is surrounded by an imposing and enormously wide wall, which is used as a city thoroughfare. You'll enjoy a gentle cycle ride that will take you the nine miles around the wall and past many smiling locals, giving you a unique perspective of Chinese urban life. This evening is at leisure. (B,L)

■ Day 8: Pingle Ancient Town

Fly to Chengdu and drive to Pingle Ancient Town. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of teahouse-lined streets before walking through Jinji's dense bamboo forest, then see the forest and gorge from above by crossing Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. Continue to Chengdu. (B,L,D)

■ Day 9: Dujiangyan Panda Base

Visit one of the world's finest panda conservation centres where you'll gain a real insight into the hard work that goes into caring for and boosting the population of this endangered species. The pandas here are kept in conditions very close to their natural habitat. Later, ascend Mt Qingcheng, the most sacred Taoist mountain in China by cable car. It is a truly beautiful area with numerous lush, green peaks and secluded temples. Take a stroll among the mystic scenery of Yuecheng Lake. (B,L,D)

■ Day 10: Ancient Ciqikou

Jump on the bullet train to Chongqing. Visit the charming old town of Ciqikou – there's

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES

08 Apr - 22 Apr	£3,490	02 Sep - 16 Sep	£3,590
06 May - 20 May	£3,490	16 Sep - 30 Sep	£3,590
20 May - 03 Jun	£3,490	14 Oct - 28 Oct	£3,590

2019 DATES

07 Apr - 21 Apr	£3,690	01 Sep - 15 Sep	£3,790
05 May - 19 May	£3,690	15 Sep - 29 Sep	£3,790
19 May - 02 Jun	£3,690	06 Oct - 20 Oct	£3,790

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,890 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £590
- Tipping paid locally RMB 900

A CHINA ADVENTURE

Our most active itinerary takes you deeper into China. Trek across two sections of the Great Wall, hike through rice terraces to discover remote villages and explore the beautiful Yangshuo countryside. And you'll meet the Giant Pandas too.



CHINA

Yangshuo. Lined with some of the most dramatic and imposing limestone cliffs on the planet, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. This evening, there is an option to be wowed by the light spectacular 'Liu Sanjie', a dramatic water-based show set on the Li River. (B,L,D)

Day 14: Tai Chi, Country Cycling or Rafting

Start the day with a relaxing yet invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking a class with a master to learn this ancient martial art. This afternoon, there is the option of riding a bicycle through the countryside or joining an optional bamboo rafting trip along the Yulong River – another chance to really soak up the unspoiled surroundings and explore every corner of this exquisite location. (B,L)

Day 15: Huangpu River Cruise

Drive back to Guilin and spend some time exploring Reed Flute Cave before going from the serene to the supercharged as you fly to Shanghai. This evening, cruise down the Huangpu River, serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B,L)

Day 16: Shanghainese Shanghai

Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai, and take a breakfast walking tour between shimmering skyscrapers and traditional streets. Walk through the city's most fascinating districts, marvelling at monuments and rickety buildings before enjoying breakfast as the locals do – sample pancakes, fried bread sticks and tofu. Visit Yu Garden, the old town and the Silk Museum before taking an evening stroll along the Bund and enjoying a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghainese cuisine. (B,L,D)

Day 17: Fly Shanghai to UK

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

17 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £3,390 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 14 BREAKFASTS, 14 LUNCHES, 8 DINNERS ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Great Wall Hike

Unique to this tour, a hike from Gubeikou to Jinshanling allows you maximum time to appreciate China's most famous structure.



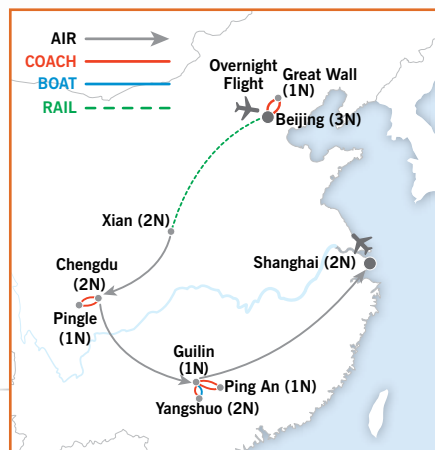
Cycling in Xian

The Silk Road City of Xian is surrounded by an imposing battlement wall; cycling on the top provides amazing views of the city from above.



Longji Hike

Hike over the curving steps of Longji, stopping to appreciate this beautifully incomprehensible feat of man-made landscaping.



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: Forbidden City and Summer Palace Walk

Stroll across Tiananmen Square into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Walking through this ornately designed complex offers an unsurpassed insight into

China's colourful past. Continue to the Summer Palace and explore the magnificent grounds, before taking a short hike up Longevity Hill to enjoy panoramic views. Stop for a photo at the Olympic Stadium before dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Beijing's Hutongs

Arrive early for a visit to the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day with Tai Chi, dancing and card playing in a flurry of sociable activity you would never see in a park at home. Next, you'll visit Yandaixiejie, where you'll have some free time to wander the hutongs; these narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home before driving to Simatai Great Wall. Ride up to the apex of the Wall by cable car to see the sunset. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Hike the Great Wall

Take a short transfer to Gubeikou to begin the hike to Jinshanling. One of the wildest and most scenic section-to-section hikes of the Great Wall, your path will traverse ancient and rugged landscapes, only going off-wall briefly to navigate around a Chinese military base. After approximately six hours of hiking, you'll return to Beijing where the rest of the day is at leisure. (B,L)

Day 6: Xian by Bullet Train

Take the bullet train to Xian, the ancient former capital. Explore the narrow and winding streets of the Muslim Quarter. Sample the delicious, freshly cooked snacks and gain an insight into the city's fascinating culture and significance as the start of the Silk Road. (B,L)

Day 7: Terracotta Warriors and Cycling on the City Wall

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor in the afterlife. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, each one unique, whilst your guide introduces you to these life-like soldiers' fascinating story. Continue to the ancient city wall for a cycle on the fortifications surrounding the heart of the city. Tonight, dine on Xian's traditional and delicious dumplings. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Travel to Pingle

Fly to Chengdu and drive to Pingle Ancient Town. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B,L)

Day 9: Pingle Ancient Town

Enjoy a morning at leisure. You may wish to take a walk through Pingle's maze of teahouse-lined streets. Later, see Sichuan's expansive bamboo forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. Drive back to Chengdu. (L,D)

Day 10: Dujiangyan Panda Base

Visit one of the world's finest panda conservation centres where you'll gain a real insight into the hard work that goes into caring for and boosting the population of this endangered species. The pandas here are kept in conditions very close to their natural habitat. Later, ascend Mt Qingcheng, the most sacred Taoist mountain in China, by cable car. It is a truly beautiful area with numerous lush, green peaks and secluded temples. Take a stroll among the mystic scenery of Yuecheng Lake. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Journey to Ping An

Take an early morning flight to Guilin before transferring to Ping An for an overnight stay. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Rice Terraces and Ethnic Villages Hike

Wake up to stunning views of the misty, stepped hills of Longji. Today's full-day hike among the terraces will take you past small hamlets and picture-postcard views of the rice terraces which cover the landscape in intricate patterns. Whether full of water or bursting with rice plants, a walk in Longji provides an unforgettable experience of rural China. Return to Guilin where the evening is at leisure. (B,L)

Day 13: Li River Cruise

Take a gentle cruise along the Li River to

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
13 Apr - 29 Apr	£3,390	14 Sep - 30 Sep	£3,490
04 May - 20 May	£3,390	12 Oct - 28 Oct	£3,490
31 Aug - 16 Sep	£3,490		
2019 DATES			
12 Apr - 28 Apr	£3,590	13 Sep - 29 Sep	£3,690
10 May - 26 May	£3,590	11 Oct - 27 Oct	£3,690
30 Aug - 15 Sep	£3,690		

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,790 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £520
- Tipping paid locally RMB 860

CHINA TRAILBLAZER

A wonderful mix of classic sights and countryside delights. See the best of China from the Great Wall to rural rice terraces, scenic rivers and ancient towns. From the seat of a bike or on a hike, you'll discover some of our favourite corners of this fascinating country.

CHINA

themselves. A three day voyage along China's riverine treasure is a chance to relax and enjoy a slower pace, whilst absorbing one breathtaking panorama after another. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Ciqikou Ancient Town

Disembark your cruise vessel and enjoy an early lunch in the charming old town of Ciqikou – there's time to wander the cobbled alleyways and learn about its colourful history. Take a bullet train to Chengdu. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Pingle Ancient Town

Drive to Pingle Ancient Town. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of teahouse-lined streets before seeing the bamboo forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. Return to Chengdu. (B,L,D)

Day 17: Li River Cruise

Take a gentle cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. Lined with some of the most dramatic and imposing limestone cliffs on the planet, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. This evening, there is an option to be wowed by the light spectacular 'Liu Sanjie'. (B,L,D)

Day 18: Tai Chi, Country Cycling or Rafting

Start the day with an invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking a class with a master to learn this ancient martial art. This afternoon, there is the option of riding a bicycle through the countryside or join a bamboo rafting trip along the Yulong River – another chance to really soak up the unspoiled surroundings of this exquisite location. (B,L)

Day 19: Huangpu River Cruise

Drive back to Guilin. Go from the serene to the supercharged as you fly to Shanghai. This evening, cruise down the Huangpu River being serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B,L)

Day 20: Shanghai's Shanghai

Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai, and take a breakfast walking tour between shimmering skyscrapers and traditional streets. Walk through the city's most fascinating districts before enjoying breakfast as the locals do – sample pancakes, fried bread sticks and tofu. Visit the classical Yu Garden, the old town and the Silk Museum before taking an evening stroll along the Bund. Enjoy a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghai's cuisine. (B,L,D)

Day 21: Fly Shanghai to UK

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

21 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £3,890 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 19 BREAKFASTS, 18 LUNCHES, 12 DINNERS ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Muslim Quarter

Walk through Xian's buzzing and industrious Muslim Quarter, sampling delicious and exciting street food and meeting colourful locals as you go.



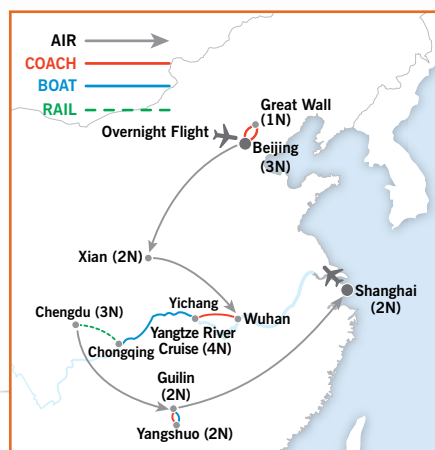
Walking in Yangshuo

Featuring toothlike limestone karsts and sleepy pastoral scenes, a walk through Yangshuo's unique countryside feels otherworldly.



Shanghai Breakfast

Get a feel for life in the big city as you dine on breakfast snacks in local Shanghai markets, shoulder to shoulder with local residents.



Days 1-2: Fly to Beijing

Fly 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: Beijing's Hutongs

This morning visit Yandaixiejie where you'll have some free time to wander the hutongs; these narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce.

Visit the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they take part in Tai Chi, dancing and card playing in a flurry of sociable activity you would never see in a park at home. Continue to the Summer Palace and explore the magnificent grounds, before taking a short hike up Longevity Hill to enjoy panoramic views. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Forbidden City

Stroll across Tiananmen Square into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Walking through this ornately designed complex offers an unsurpassed insight into China's colourful past. Drive to Simatai Great Wall where you will ride up to the apex of the Wall by cable car to see the sunset. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Hike the Great Wall

Travel to the Great Wall at Jinshanling, a section that is much less frequented by tourists than other parts. The stark yet magnificent surroundings allow you to put yourself in the shoes of those who walked this incredible structure hundreds of years ago. Your trek will last approximately four hours as the wall dramatically courses through spectacular landscapes and rugged terrain. Later, head back to Beijing, where you'll have free time. (B,L)

Day 6: Explore Xian

Fly to Xian, the ancient former capital. Explore the narrow and winding streets of the Muslim Quarter. Sample the delicious, freshly cooked snacks and gain an insight into the city's fascinating culture and significance as the start of the Silk Road. The evening is at leisure - Defu Lane offers a vibrant atmosphere at night. (B,L)

Day 7: Terracotta Warriors

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor in the afterlife. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, each one unique, whilst your guide introduces you to these life-like soldiers' fascinating story. Continue to the ancient city wall for a cycle on the fortifications surrounding the heart of the city. Tonight, dine on Xian's traditional and delicious dumplings. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Board Your Cruise

Fly to Wuhan and transfer to Yichang to board your Yangtze Cruise vessel, home for the next four nights. (B,L,D)

Days 9-11: Yangtze Cruise

A man-made marvel, The Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. As you cruise upstream, nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges

Day 14: Dujiangyan Panda Base

Visit one of the world's finest panda conservation centres where you'll gain a real insight into the hard work that goes into caring for and boosting the population of this endangered species. The pandas here are kept in conditions very close to their natural habitat. Later, ascend Mt Qingcheng, the most sacred Taoist mountain in China, by cable car. It is a truly beautiful spot with numerous lush, green peaks and secluded temples. Take a stroll among the mystic scenery of Yuecheng Lake. (B,L,D)

Day 15: Sun & Moon Pagodas

Take an early morning flight to Guilin. Take a walk around the picturesque Ronghu Lake and admire the Sun and Moon pagodas – two towering examples of traditional Chinese-Buddhist architecture. (B,L)

Day 16: Rice Terraces and Ethnic Villages Hike

Travel to the misty, stepped hills of Longji. Today's four-hour hike among the terraces will take you past small hamlets and picture-postcard views of the rice terraces which cover the landscape in intricate patterns. Whether full of water or bursting with rice plants, a walk in Longji provides an unforgettable experience of rural China. Return to Guilin. (B,L)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
31 Mar - 20 Apr	£3,890	08 Sep - 28 Sep	£3,990
14 Apr - 04 May	£3,890	22 Sep - 12 Oct	£3,990
05 May - 25 May	£3,890	06 Oct - 26 Oct	£3,990
19 May - 08 Jun	£3,890	13 Oct - 02 Nov	£3,990
2019 DATES			
30 Mar - 19 Apr	£3,990	07 Sep - 27 Sep	£4,190
13 Apr - 03 May	£4,090	21 Sep - 11 Oct	£4,190
04 May - 24 May	£4,090	05 Oct - 25 Oct	£4,190
18 May - 07 Jun	£4,090	12 Oct - 01 Nov	£4,190

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,290 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £720
- Tipping paid locally RMB 1,130

ENCHANTING CHINA

Slow down the pace and enjoy China with several leisure days and a gentle cruise on the Yangtze. See the classic sights and take time to relax. But if you want to pick up the pace, there are optional activities available.



CHINA

and enjoy a slower pace, whilst absorbing one breathtaking panorama after another. (B,L,D)

Day 14: Three Gorges Dam

A man-made marvel, the Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. Visit the mammoth dam before disembarking your cruise vessel. and flying to Shanghai. (B,L)

Day 15: Shanghaiese Shanghai

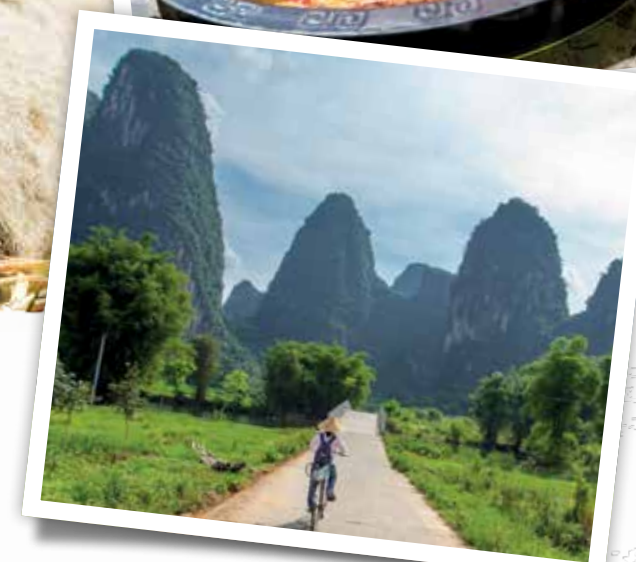
Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai and take a breakfast walking tour between shimmering skyscrapers and traditional streets. Walk through the city's most fascinating districts, marvelling at monuments and rickety buildings before enjoying breakfast as the locals do – sample pancakes, fried bread sticks and tofu. Visit the classical Yu Garden, the old town, and the Silk Museum. Later, take an evening stroll along the Bund and cruise down the Huangpu River, as you are serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B)

Day 16: Shanghai at Leisure

Enjoy a day at leisure in Shanghai and explore this action-packed city. Alternatively, take an optional tour to 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. Tonight, there will be a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghaiese cuisine. (B,D)

Day 17: Fly Shanghai to UK

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



17 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £3,290

FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

15 BREAKFASTS, 8 LUNCHES, 4 DINNERS

FLEXIBLE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Personal exploration

Choose between optional excursions and free time, so if you want to delve deeper into Beijing, Xian, Shanghai and Chengdu on your own terms, you can.



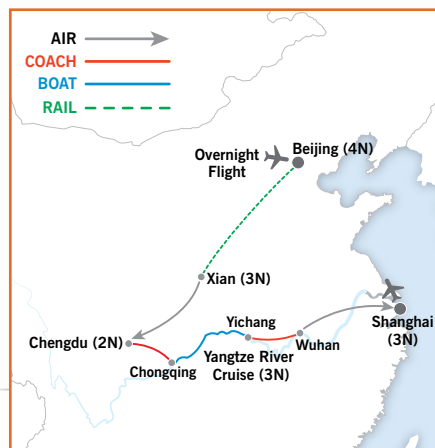
Yandaixie hutong

Get a glimpse of what Beijing was like before gleaming modernisation took over; wander along this atmospheric street and join a local family for lunch.



Cycling in xian

The Silk Road city of Xian is surrounded by an imposing battlement wall; cycling on the top provides amazing views of the city from above.



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

This morning, head to Beijing's symbolic heart, Tiananmen Square, and stroll into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City where you'll find a complex full of imperial

treasures. Visit Yandaixiejie, where you'll have some free time to wander the hutongs. These narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home. This evening enjoy some free time in the vibrant Houhai district. (B,L)

Day 4: Huanghuacheng Great Wall and Wangfujing

This morning, visit Huanghuacheng, a particularly scenic section of the Great Wall, reached by boat and boasts spectacular views from the top. Spend the afternoon at leisure exploring colourful Wangfujing street, and in the evening enjoy an optional Peking duck dinner. (B,L)

Day 5: Summer Palace

Explore the beautifully designed grounds of the Summer Palace including the Long Corridor and the Marble Boat. Spend time strolling around pretty Kunming Lake and walk up wooded Longevity Hill. Make a photo stop at the Olympic Park. (B)

Day 6: Temple of Heaven

This morning, visit the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day

with Tai Chi, dancing, and cards in a flurry of sociable activity. Later, take the bullet train to Xian. (B,L)

Day 7: Terracotta Warriors

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, while you are introduced to these lifelike soldiers' fascinating story. Take a walking tour of the Muslim Quarter and maybe sample some of the freshly cooked snacks. With the evening free, why not enjoy a cold beer in Defu Lane or take an optional tour of Xian by night? (B,L)

Day 8: Cycle the Xian City Walls

Today is a day at leisure to explore Xian. There is the option to enjoy a gentle cycle ride that will take you the nine miles around Xian's beautifully preserved city wall, past many smiling locals. This evening, enjoy an optional Tang Dynasty show. (B)

Day 9: Chengdu Like a Local

Fly to Chengdu and take a walk around People's Park, a hive of activity. See beautiful golden koi, locals dancing and practicing Tai Chi, visit a local teahouse, and most interesting of all spend time in Matchmaker's Corner. (B,L)

Day 10: Pingle Ancient Town

Today is a day at leisure in Chengdu, with the option of visiting the old town of Pingle. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of teahouse-lined streets before seeing the bamboo forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. (B)

Day 11: Giant Pandas

Spend the morning visiting the Giant Pandas of Chengdu Panda Base. Here you can observe these gorgeous creatures lounging, playing and chomping through piles of bamboo in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Drive to Chongqing and board your Yangtze cruise vessel. (B,D)

Days 12-13: Yangtze Cruise

As you cruise downstream, nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery including the Three Gorges themselves. A three-night voyage along China's riverine treasure is a chance to relax

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
06 Apr - 22 Apr	£3,290	14 Sep - 30 Sep	£3,390
04 May - 20 May	£3,290	12 Oct - 28 Oct	£3,390
07 Sep - 23 Sep	£3,390		
2019 DATES			
05 Apr - 21 Apr	£3,490	13 Sep - 29 Sep	£3,590
03 May - 19 May	£3,490	11 Oct - 27 Oct	£3,590
06 Sep - 22 Sep	£3,590		

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,690 (Beijing - Shanghai)
- Single room from £660
- Tipping paid locally RMB 870

LAND OF THE DRAGON

Discover China on a tour that you can tailor to suit your own interests. All the major sights such as the Great Wall, Terracotta Warriors and Giant Pandas are included but you can choose your own mix of active options, personal exploration and relaxation.

CHINA

Day 15: Giant Pandas

Spend the morning visiting the Giant Pandas of Chengdu Panda Base. Here you can observe these gorgeous creatures lounging, playing and chomping through piles of bamboo in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Drive to Chongqing and board your Yangtze cruise vessel. (B,D)

Days 16-17: Yangtze Cruise

As you cruise downstream, nature takes over, revealing some of the world's most dramatic scenery, including the Three Gorges themselves. A two-day voyage along China's riverine treasure is a chance to relax and enjoy a slower pace, whilst absorbing one breathtaking panorama after another. (B,L,D)

Day 18: Fly to Shanghai

A man-made marvel, the Three Gorges Dam showcases this massive feat of engineering. Visit the mammoth dam before disembarking your cruise vessel. Fly to Shanghai. (B,L)

Day 19: Shanghainese Shanghai

Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai and take a breakfast walking tour between shimmering skyscrapers and traditional streets. Walk through the city's most fascinating districts, marvelling at monuments and rickety buildings before enjoying breakfast as the locals do – sample pancakes, fried bread sticks and tofu. Visit Yu Garden, one of old town and the Silk Museum before a cruise down the Huangpu River, as you are serenaded by the neon lights of Pudong. (B)

Day 20: At Leisure in Shanghai

Enjoy a day at leisure in Shanghai and explore this action packed city. Alternatively, take an optional tour to 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. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner of authentic Shanghainese cuisine. (B,D)

Day 21: Fly Shanghai to UK

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

21

DAYS FROM

PER PERSON

£3,490



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK



19 BREAKFASTS, 9 LUNCHES, 4 DINNERS



FLEXIBLE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Personal exploration

Choose between optional excursions and free time, so if you want to delve deeper into Beijing, Xian, Yangshuo and Chengdu on your own terms, you can.



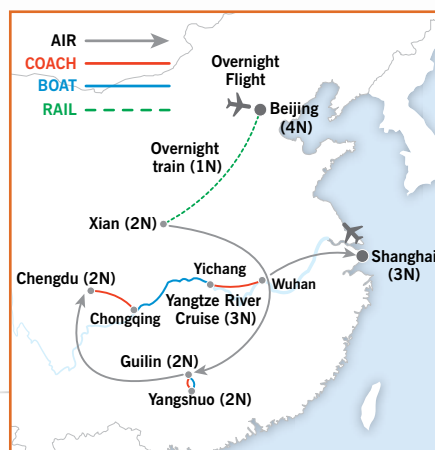
Huanghuacheng

Looming gracefully over the peaceful lakeside, Huanghuacheng is a lesser visited section of the wall where you can feel centuries of history.



Shanghai breakfast

Get a feel for life in the big city as you dine on breakfast snacks in local Shanghai markets, shoulder to shoulder with local residents.



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

This morning, head to Beijing's symbolic heart, Tiananmen Square, and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City where you'll find a complex full of imperial treasures. Visit Yandaixiejie, where you'll have

some free time to wander the hutongs. These narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home. This evening, enjoy some free time in the vibrant Houhai district. (B,L)

Day 4: Huanghuacheng Great Wall and Wangfujing

This morning, visit Huanghuacheng, a particularly scenic section of the Great Wall, reached by boat and boasts spectacular views from the top. Spend the afternoon at leisure exploring colourful Wangfujing street, and in the evening enjoy an optional Peking duck dinner. (B,L)

Day 5: Summer Palace

Explore the beautifully designed grounds of the Summer Palace including the Long Corridor and the Marble Boat. Spend time strolling around pretty Kunming Lake and walk up wooded Longevity Hill. Make a photo stop at the Olympic Park. (B)

Day 6: Temple of Heaven

In the morning, visit the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day with Tai Chi, dancing, and cards in a flurry of sociable activity. Later, take the overnight train to Xian. (B,L)

Day 7: Terracotta Warriors

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, while you are introduced to these lifelike soldiers' fascinating story. Take a walking tour of the Muslim Quarter and maybe sample some of the freshly cooked snacks. With the evening free, why not enjoy a cold beer in Defu Lane or take an optional tour of the city by night? (B,L)

Day 8: Cycle the Xian City Walls

Today is a day at leisure to explore Xian. There is the option to take a gentle cycle ride that will take you the nine miles around Xian's beautifully preserved city wall, past many smiling locals. (B)

Day 9: Fly to Guilin

Fly to Guilin. On arrival, explore the magnificent formations of Reed Flute Cave and browse the displays of the South China Pearl Museum. Later, take a late afternoon stroll around the picturesque Ronghu and Shanhu lakes, mingling with the local people as you go, then head to the vibrant Zhengyang Pedestrian Street where you are free to enjoy dinner and drinks. (B)

Day 10: Hiking in Longji

Today, there is an option to take a four-hour hike in the stunning rice terraces of Longji. Walk over the fields and enjoy picture-postcard views of the terraces that cover the landscape in intricate patterns. Otherwise, spend time in Guilin. (B)

Day 11: Li River Cruise

Take a gentle cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. Lined with dramatic cliffs, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. Walk through this idyllic wonderland and get an insight into life here. Later, visit the magnificent Moon Hill. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B,L)

Day 12: Yangshuo Tai Chi

Start the day with a relaxing yet invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking a class with a master to learn this ancient martial art. Afterwards, you may wish to join an optional bamboo rafting trip along the Yulong River or cycle through the countryside for one last, tranquil jaunt in Yangshuo. (B)

Day 13: Chengdu Like a Local

Return to Guilin and fly to Chengdu. Walk around People's Park, a hive of activity, to see beautiful golden koi, locals dancing and practicing tai chi, visit a local tea house and most interesting of all, visit Matchmaker's Corner. The rest of the day is at leisure where you can enjoy an optional hot pot dinner and a face changing show. (B,L)

Day 14: Pingle Ancient Town

Today is a day at leisure in Chengdu, with the option of visiting the old town of Pingle. Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of teahouse-lined streets before seeing the bamboo forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. (B)

CHINA: THE BIG ONE

This slower-paced tour has time set aside for independent exploration. As well as the vibrant cities, discover the charms of beautiful Yangshuo, delightful Dali and quaint Lijiang. And there are plenty of active options so you can hike, bike and see the sights.

CHINA

Chi, taking a class with a master to learn this ancient martial art. You may wish to join an optional bamboo rafting trip along the Yulong River or cycle through the countryside for one last tranquil jaunt in Yangshuo. (B)

Day 13: Kunming at Leisure
Transfer to Guilin and visit Reed Flute Cave. Fly to Kunming. (B)

Day 14: 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 to visit Green Lake Park and have an evening at leisure, perhaps enjoying the vibrant Wenhua Alley district. (B,L)

Day 15: Dali's Ancient Town
Drive to Dali. The rest of the day includes a visit to the Three Pagodas and being immersed in the atmosphere of the fascinating old quarter and lively market. Stroll along Foreigners' Street and explore the many dining options here. (B,L)

Day 16: Dali at Leisure
Take an optional visit to Weibaoshan, one of the fourteen sacred Taoist mountains. Steeped in legend, the mountain features 20 Taoist temples nestled on its forested slopes. Walk up the hillside to see a handful of these intricately decorated temples, stopping at Qinxia Temple where you will be met by a Taoist priest for a relaxing meditation session. Alternatively, spend the day relaxing in Dali. (B)

Day 17: Shaxi Ancient Town
Drive to Shaxi Ancient Town, nestled deep in the Himalayan foothills. Learn about the fascinating minority peoples that reside in the area and enjoy a local lunch. In the afternoon, continue to Lijiang and spend the evening in the historic old town. (B,L)

Day 18: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain
A magnificent mountain, Jade Dragon Snow Mountain comprises several peaks. Take a cable car to one of the gorgeous high meadows and enjoy amazing vistas. Visit the minority Baisha Naxi Village and admire the fascinating Baisha frescoes. (B,L)

Day 19: Tiger Leaping Gorge
Today's optional mini-trek to Tiger Leaping Gorge takes you through dramatic cliffs and down into the gorge itself. If you don't join the trek, the day is at leisure in Lijiang. (B)

Day 20: Chengdu like a Local
Fly to Chengdu and walk around People's Park, a hive of activity. See beautiful golden koi, locals dancing and practicing Tai Chi, visit a local teahouse and most interesting of all, Matchmaker's Corner. Later, visit Wide and Narrow Alleys. (B,L)

Day 21: Giant Pandas
Visit Chengdu's renowned panda base and see these adorably charming creatures up close. The rest of the day is at leisure. You can enjoy an optional hot pot dinner and a 'face-changing' show. (B,L)

Day 22: Ancient Ciqikou
Take the bullet train to Chongqing. Enjoy free time in the charming old town of Ciqikou then board your Yangtze Cruise vessel, home for the next three nights. (B,D)

Days 23-24: Yangtze Cruise
A cruise down the Yangtze reveals some of the world's most dramatic scenery. (B,L,D)

Day 25: Three Gorges Dam
Visit the Three Gorges Dam, then fly to Shanghai. (B,L,D)

Day 26: Shanghainese Shanghai
Wake up to the buzz of Shanghai and take a breakfast walking tour between shimmering skyscrapers and traditional streets. Visit Yu Garden, the old town and the Silk Museum. Cruise down the Huangpu River, and enjoy the neon lights of Pudong. (B,L)

Day 27: Zhujiajiao and Huangpu
Join the optional day tour to delightful Zhujiajiao, or spend more time at leisure in Shanghai. This evening, enjoy a delicious farewell dinner. (B,D)

Day 28: Fly Shanghai to UK
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

28 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £4,190

FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

26 BREAKFASTS, 17 LUNCHES, 5 DINNERS

FLEXIBLE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Personal exploration



Huanghuacheng



Dali's Ancient Town

Choose between optional excursions and free time, so if you want to delve deeper into Beijing, Xian, Shanghai and Chengdu on your own terms, you can.

Looming over the peaceful lakeside, Huanghuacheng is a lesser visited section of the Wall. Feel centuries of history as the wall drapes lazily over the surrounding hillside.

The cobbled, winding streets of Dali's Old Quarter are a delight to relax in and wander through – spend an evening here people watching.



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 at leisure.

Day 3: Forbidden City and Hutongs
Stroll across Tiananmen Square and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City. Next, visit Yandaixiejie Street where there's time to wander the hutongs; these narrow alleys offer a glimpse of old Beijing. Later, there's free time to explore. (B,L)

Day 4: Huanghuacheng Great Wall and Wangfujing
This morning, visit Huanghuacheng, a particularly scenic section of the Great Wall reached by boat, that boasts spectacular views from the top. Spend the afternoon at leisure exploring colourful Wangfujing street, and in the evening enjoy an optional Peking duck dinner. (B,L)

Day 5: Imperial Summer Palace
Enjoy a relaxed day exploring the beautifully designed grounds of the Summer Palace including the Long Corridor and the Marble Boat. Spend time strolling around pretty Kunming Lake and walk up wooded Longevity Hill. Make a photo stop at the Olympic Park. (B,L)

Day 6: Temple of Heaven
This morning, visit the Temple of Heaven and mingle with the locals as they start their day with Tai Chi, dancing, and cards in a flurry of social activity. Take the overnight train to Xian. (B,L)

Day 7: Terracotta Warriors
Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, while you are introduced to these lifelike soldiers' fascinating story.

Take a walking tour of the Muslim Quarter and sample freshly cooked snacks. With the evening free, why not enjoy a cold beer in Defu Lane? (B,L)

Day 8: Cycling in Xian
Start your day with a gentle cycle ride that will take you the nine miles around the wall. This afternoon, visit the Little Wild Goose Pagoda. (B,L)

Day 9: Beautiful Guilin
Fly to Guilin. Walk around the lakes before enjoying the evening at leisure – you may wish to stroll around Zhengyang Street. (B)

Day 10: Hiking in Longji
Today, there is an option to take a four-hour hike in the stunning rice terraces of Longji. Walk over the fields and enjoy picture-postcard views of the terraces which cover the landscape in intricate patterns. Otherwise, spend more time in Guilin. (B)

Day 11: Yangshuo Countryside
Take a gentle cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. Lined with dramatic, limestone cliffs, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. Take a walk through this idyllic wonderland and get an insight into life here. There's an option to hike to the top of Moon Hill for epic views. (B,L)

Day 12: Yangshuo Tai Chi
Start the day with an invigorating session of Tai

SICHUAN EXPLORER

Sichuan contrasts 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.



CHINA

Day 12: Huanglong Pools

Travel to of Huanglong Valley, home to hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposits, tumble gently down through the bright green forests. The whole area is full of beautiful sights and as it is relatively undiscovered, is a pleasure to explore. There is an option to take the chairlift towards Huanglong Temple at the head of the valley for excellent panoramic views, before we continue to Mao County for an overnight stay. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Qiang Minority Village

Today you will visit a Qiang minority village where you'll be joined by a local elder, who will talk through the history and culture of his people, before visiting a local family. The Qiang people are an ethnic minority group in China with a population of about 326,500. Qiang is actually a Chinese word that translates in English as 'shepherds'. Their customs, architectural style, clothing and religious beliefs are far removed

from the western world. Later in the afternoon, drive to Chengdu. (B,L)

Day 14: Local Chengdu

Spend the morning absorbing the culture of People's Park. People-watching here is an endless pleasure, from the grizzled locals playing mahjong to the lonely singles looking for love in Matchmaker's Corner. Join the locals in an exciting square dancing session. Stop at a local teahouse and wander through the Wide and Narrow Alleys. Visit the Shu Brocade and Embroidery Museum. In the evening, enjoy a delicious Sichuanese hot pot dinner and an optional 'face changing' show. (B,L,D)

Day 15: Fly Chengdu to UK

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

15 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £2,690 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 13 BREAKFASTS, 12 LUNCHES, 11 DINNERS ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Dujiangyan Pandas

Smaller than Chengdu but benefitting from a leafier, more remote location, Dujiangyan is the perfect place to meet China's cuddliest icon.



Nine Villages Valley

Clear, cyan pools rest beneath tree-draped hills in China's most spectacular park. Walking through it reveals ever-changing, phenomenal landscapes.



Qiang Ethnic Village

Meet one of the most isolated minorities in the wilds of Sichuan and get a glimpse of a rarely-seen, deeply traditional culture.



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: Leshan Grand Buddha

Travel to Leshan to see 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. View the Buddha from above before climbing down the cliff for a close up. A short boat trip will give an even better perspective. Continue to Mount Emei. You'll spend the evening at the foot of the mountain. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Explore Mount Emei

Mount Emei is the cradle of the Buddhist religion in China with the first temple built 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. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Mengdingshan

Journey to Mengdingshan. Explore the vast stretch of tea bushes and take a tour of a plantation, where you'll be shown the whole process of producing tea, from plucking the leaves to brewing the perfect cup. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Pingle Ancient Town

Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of teahouse-

lined streets before seeing the bamboo forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. Drive to Chengdu. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Dujiangyan Panda Base

Visit one of the world's finest panda conservation centres in Dujiangyan where you'll gain a real insight into the hard work that goes into caring for and boosting the population of this endangered species. The pandas here are kept in conditions very close to their natural habitat. Later, visit the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, an infrastructure constructed in 256BC and still used today to irrigate 5,300 square kilometres of land. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Taoist Mount Qingcheng

Mt Qingcheng is the most important Taoist Holy mountain in China. It is also a truly beautiful spot with numerous peaks covered with lush greenery and secluded temples. You'll be welcomed by a Taoist priest at the Old Master Pavilion on the summit of Mt Qingcheng. Take the opportunity to speak to him and learn about his religion. You'll also be shown the art of Chinese painting and calligraphy. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Nine Villages Valley

Enjoy the drive through spectacular mountain scenery to Nine Villages Valley, where you'll spend the next three nights. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Explore Nine Villages Valley

A national park of ragged peaks, sapphire lakes, verdant forests and rushing waterfalls, Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou National Park) is considered one of China's most beautiful areas. Named after the nine Tibetan settlements scattered through the valley, the park is a World Biosphere Reserve, full of endemic flora and 140 species of birds. A trip up to the top of the valley to Long Lake, the highest, deepest and largest in the area, offers spectacular alpine views whilst a short walk to Five-Coloured Lake and Nuorilang Falls showcases some of the valley's most beautiful sights. (B,L,D)

Day 11: 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 appreciate the local scenery. You'll pass an old watermill, many prayer wheels and Tibetan prayer flags en route. (B,L,D)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
06 May - 20 May	£2,690	07 Oct - 21 Oct	£2,890
02 Sep - 16 Sep	£2,890		
2019 DATES			
05 May - 19 May	£2,890	06 Oct - 20 Oct	£3,090
01 Sep - 15 Sep	£3,090		

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,090 (Chengdu - Chengdu)
- Single room from £520
- Tipping paid locally RMB 750

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.

CHINA

16 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £2,990 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 14 BREAKFASTS, 12 LUNCHES, 8 DINNERS ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Taoist Meditation

Join a Taoist priest on the misty slopes of sacred Weibaoshan, and learn relaxing meditative techniques in these extraordinary surroundings.



Ethnic Villages

Yunnan is dotted with colourful, long-established ethnic minorities – visit some of the remotest areas for a glimpse of rural Chinese culture.



Yuanyang Hike

Venture over the winding steps of Yuanyang, a curvaceous feat of natural and human engineering sculpted into the hillside.



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: Stone Forest

This morning, meander through the formations of the UNESCO listed Stone Forest, where towering limestone pillars stand treelike in a fascinating illusion of woodland. Enjoy a local lunch. Return to Kunming, where you can sample the local delicacy, Across the Bridge Noodles. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Travel to Dali

Drive to Dali, a charming town that offers a peek into bygone China. Wander the Ancient Quarter and see the magnificent Three Pagodas. (B,L)

Day 5: Meditation on a Mountain

Journey to Weibaoshan, one of the fourteen sacred Taoist mountains. Steeped in legend, the mountain features 20 Taoist temples nestled on its wooded slopes. Walk up the forested hillside to see a handful of these intricately decorated temples, stopping at Qingxia Temple where you will be met by a Taoist priest for a relaxing meditation session. The evening is at leisure. (B,L)

Day 6: Shaxi Ancient Town

Drive to Shaxi Ancient Town, nestled deep in the Himalayan foothills. Learn about the fascinating minority people that reside in the area and enjoy a local lunch. In the afternoon, continue to Lijiang and have some free time to explore the old town, a jumble of cobbled streets, charming wooden buildings and rustic stone bridges. (B,L)

Day 7: Meet a Shaman Master

Take a chairlift to one of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain's gorgeous meadows and enjoy amazing vistas of this magnificent

mountain. Continue to Baisha Naxi Village and meet a Dongba Shaman who will demonstrate how to write ancient Dongba characters, before you attempt this quirky artform yourself. Sample traditional Naxi cuisine. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Tiger Leaping Gorge

Visit the Black Dragon Pool Park for magnificent views of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Travel to Tiger Leaping Gorge. With its backdrop of snow-capped mountains, it 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. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Rural Shangri-La

Visit Songzanlin Monastery before embarking on a 2-3 hour walk to Napa Hai. Here, you will be surrounded by towering mountains and lush grasslands that are brimming with flora and fauna. Continue to a rural Tibetan-style village, where you will learn about the villagers' way of life – make butter tea and taste home-cooked dishes. Return to Shangri-La. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Explore Shangri-La

Spend the morning wandering through the town, absorbing its fascinating mix of Tibetan and Han Chinese culture. Also visit Dafo Temple before an afternoon at leisure. (B,L)

Day 11: Kunming

Fly to Kunming. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

Day 12: Travel to Jianshui

Travel to Tonghai and visit the unique Xingmeng Mongolian village, where the residents wear traditional costumes and keep old customs alive. After a stroll around Tonghai market, continue to the antiquated town of Jianshui for an overnight stay and visit the Confucius Temple, one of the largest in China. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Yuanyang Market

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. (B,L,D)

Day 14: Yuanyang Rice Terraces

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, visiting Hani ethnic villages such as Qingkou and Bada on your way. (B,L,D)

Day 15: Lendun Village Market

Travel back to Kunming via Lendun Village Market. (B,L,D)

Day 16: Fly Kunming to UK

Fly back home, arriving the same or following day. (B)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
07 Apr - 22 Apr	£2,990	06 Oct - 21 Oct	£3,190
05 May - 20 May	£2,990	27 Oct - 11 Nov	£3,190
08 Sep - 23 Sep	£3,190		
2019 DATES			
06 Apr - 21 Apr	£3,190	12 Oct - 27 Oct	£3,390
04 May - 19 May	£3,190	26 Oct - 10 Nov	£3,390
14 Sep - 29 Sep	£3,390		

Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
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- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,390 (Kunming - Kunming)
- Single room from £470
- Tipping paid locally RMB 800

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.

CHINA

Day 18: Leshan Giant Buddha

Travel to Leshan to see the Grand Buddha. The 71-metre Buddha, the world's largest and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, 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. View the Buddha from above before taking a short boat trip, which will give you an even better perspective from below. Continue to Emeishan. (B,L,D)

Day 19: Explore Mount Emei

Mount Emei is the cradle of the Buddhist religion in China with the first temple built 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. (B,L,D)

Day 20: Pingle Ancient Town

Dating back to the Han Dynasty, Pingle was a stopping point on the Tea Horse Road. Take time to walk through its maze of teahouse-lined streets before seeing the bamboo forest from above on Jinji Suspended Rope Bridge. Drive back to Chengdu. (B,L)

Day 21: Chengdu Panda Base

Spend the morning visiting the Giant Pandas of Chengdu Panda Base. Here you can observe these adorable creatures lounging, playing and chomping through piles of bamboo in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. This afternoon, absorb the culture at People's Park. People-watching here is an endless pleasure, from the locals playing mahjong lively to the lonely singles looking for love in Matchmaker's Corner. In the evening, enjoy a delicious Sichuanese hot pot dinner and an optional 'face changing' show. (B,D)

Day 22: Fly Chengdu to UK

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

22

DAYS FROM

PER PERSON

£3,790



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK



20 BREAKFASTS, 17 LUNCHES, 15 DINNERS



ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Longji Hike

Hike over the curving steps of Longji, stopping to appreciate this beautifully incomprehensible feat of man-made landscaping.



Zhangjiajie

Scale the lofty heights of the 'Avatar Mountains' to view otherworldly, ethereal peaks seemingly floating through the mist.



Huanglong Pools

Walk up to the turquoise pools of Huanglong, and witness crystalline water tumbling over naturally formed calcium walls.



Days 1-2: Fly to Guilin

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

Day 3: Yangshuo's Landscapes

Take a gentle cruise along the Li River to Yangshuo. Lined with dramatic limestone cliffs, the serenity of life on the riverbanks is a wonderful sight. Later, take a walk through this idyllic wonderland and get an insight into life here. There's an option to take a rewarding hike to Moon Hill for beautiful views. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Tai Chi & Bamboo Rafting

Start the day with a relaxing and invigorating session of Tai Chi, taking a class with a master to learn this ancient martial art. This afternoon, there is an option to go bamboo rafting on the Yulong River. Drift past verdant riverbanks and under ancient bridges as you paddle on the glass-like water. This evening, you have the option of enjoying the magical Liu Sanjie night show. (B,L)

Day 5: Reed Flute Cave

Drive back to Guilin and spend the afternoon exploring Reed Flute Cave and learning about the South China pearling industry at the Pearl Museum. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Longji Rice Terraces

Travel to the iconic Longji Rice Terraces and head out for a three-hour walk through the traditional rural landscapes. There are several viewpoints boasting picture-postcard views of the extensive rice terraces that cover the hillside in intricate patterns. Drive back to Guilin. (B,L)

Day 7: Zhangjiajie

Take the bullet train to Changsha, and drive to Zhangjiajie. (B,L,D)

Days 8-9: Zhangjiajie

A scenic area of over 3,000 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. During your time here you will enjoy some beautiful walks, as well as taking a cruise on Lake Baofeng and a visit to Huanglong Cave and Huangshi Village. You'll also see the famous Yuanjiajie Avatar Mountain and Emperor Mountain. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Yichang

Catch the train to Yichang, where you'll board your Yangtze Cruise vessel, home for the next four nights. (B,L,D)

Days 11-13: 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. A voyage along China's riverine treasure is a chance to relax and enjoy a slower pace, whilst absorbing extraordinary countryside. Take a side trip to the attractive Goddess or Shennong Stream and enjoy shore excursions to Fengdu or Shibaozhai. (B,L,D)

Day 14: Fly to Jiuzhaigou

Disembark your cruise vessel and fly to Nine Villages Valley (Jiuzhaigou). (B,D)

Day 15: 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. A trip up to the top of the valley to Long Lake, the highest, deepest and largest in the area, offers spectacular alpine views, whilst a short walk to Five-Coloured Lake and Nuorilang Falls showcases some of the valley's most beautiful sights. Later, enjoy traditional lamb skewers. (B,L,D)

Day 16: 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 appreciate the local scenery. You'll pass an old watermill and Tibetan prayer flags en route. (B,L,D)

Day 17: Huanglong Pools

Travel to Huanglong Valley, home to hundreds of vivid pools in striking colours, formed by thousands of years of mineral deposits tumbling gently down through the bright green forests. There is an option to take the chairlift up towards Huanglong Temple at the head of the valley for excellent panoramic views, before catching a flight to Chengdu. (B,L)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES

05 Apr - 26 Apr	£3,790	06 Sep - 27 Sep	£3,990
03 May - 24 May	£3,790	11 Oct - 01 Nov	£3,990

2019 DATES

04 Apr - 25 Apr	£3,990	05 Sep - 26 Sep	£4,190
02 May - 23 May	£3,990	10 Oct - 31 Oct	£4,190

Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
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- Accommodation
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Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,190 (Guilin - Chengdu)
- Single room from £760
- Tipping paid locally RMB 1,120

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.

CHINA

way to Base Camp. Here, situated under the gaze of Everest's north face, the views of the world's highest peak are unsurpassed (weather permitting). Visit Rongbuk Monastery, draped in colourful prayer flags, and stay overnight in the township. (B,L,D)

Day 16: Everest Sunrise

Rise early to see a glorious sunrise over Everest before returning to New Tingri. (B,L,D)

Days 17-18: Shigatse and Gyantse

Return to Shigatse where the evening is at leisure. The next day, visit Tashilhunpo Monastery, and join the pilgrims on their evening 'Kora' (circumnavigation) of the monastery. Continue to the pleasant town of Gyantse to visit the Gyantse Kumbum. Visit a traditional folk house for some home brewed 'chang'. (B,L,D)

Day 19: Tsedang

Travel along the Brahmaputra River to Tsedang, called the 'cradle of Tibetan civilisation'. Visit Gangpo Ri. (B,L,D)

Day 20: 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 before returning to Lhasa. (B,L)

Day 21: Chengdu

Fly to Chengdu. The afternoon is at leisure. (B)

Day 22: Giant Pandas

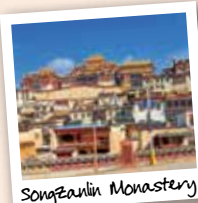
Visit the famous Panda Conservation Centre where you can get up close to China's celebrated bears in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Visit People's Park, Matchmaker's Corner, a teahouse and the Shu Brocade factory. Tonight, sample delicious Sichuanese cuisine for dinner. You will also have the option to see a 'face-changing' show. (B,L,D)

Day 23: Fly Chengdu to UK

Fly back home arriving the same or following day. (B)

23 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £4,290 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 21 BREAKFASTS, 18 LUNCHES, 13 DINNERS ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



At the foot of Foping Mountain, Songzanlin glints in the sun light. Discover an atmospheric warren of ancient castles, prayer wheels and pilgrims.



Pace quietly through the Jokhang or around the Barkhor Circuit; and you will begin to absorb the deep spirituality that runs through the veins of this inspiring city.



Hike to the legendary Base Camp used by Everest hikers and sherpas, and take in a truly once-in-a-lifetime, epic view.



Days 1-2: Fly to Kunming

Fly overnight to the relaxed city of Kunming, 'the city of Eternal Spring'.

Day 3: Discover the Stone Forest

This morning, meander through the formations of the UNESCO-listed Stone Forest, where towering limestone pillars stand treelike in a fascinating illusion of petrified woodland. In the afternoon, visit Dianchi Lake and the Western Hills. Returning to Kunming, tuck into local delicacy Across the Bridge Noodles for dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Travel to Dali

Drive to Dali, a charming town that offers a peek into bygone China. Wander the Ancient Quarter and see the magnificent Three Pagodas. (B,L)

Day 5: Taoist Mountain Meditation

Weibaoshan is one of the Taoist religion's most sacred mountains, and has twenty temples dotted on its forested slopes. Take a scenic walk and discover a handful of these temples, stopping at Qingxia Temple where you will meet a Taoist priest who will introduce you to Taoist meditation techniques. (B,L)

Day 6: Shaxi Ancient Town

Drive to Shaxi Ancient Town, nestled deep in the Himalayan foothills. Learn about the fascinating minority peoples who reside in the area and enjoy a local lunch. Continue to Lijiang and spend the evening wandering the old town. (B,L)

Day 7: Jade Dragon Snow Mountain & Dongba Shaman

A magnificent mountain, the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain soars to 5,500 metres. Taking a chairlift, explore one of the stunning high meadows and enjoy the amazing vistas. Admire the fascinating Ming Dynasty frescoes at Baisha and see the intricate creations of the embroidery school. Next, meet a genuine Shaman who will teach you to write the language of Dongba Pictograms. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Tiger Leaping Gorge

Visit Black Dragon Pool Park for magnificent views of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Travel to Tiger Leaping Gorge. With its backdrop of snow-capped mountains, it is one of China's most extraordinary sights. Continue on to the Tibetan monastery town of Zhongdian, also known as Shangri-La. Visit Dafo Temple and take some free time to explore the old town. (B,L)

Day 9: Rural Shangri-La

Visit Songzanlin Monastery before hiking 2-3 hours to Napa Hai. Here you are surrounded by towering mountains and lush grasslands brimming with flora and fauna. Next, visit a rural Tibetan-style village where you will learn about the villagers' way of life, make butter tea and taste home-cooked dishes. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Lhasa

Fly to Lhasa, the heart and soul of Tibet. The afternoon is free to relax and acclimatise to the altitude (B,D)

Day 11: Jokhang Temple and Spiritual Barkhor Circuit

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 Circuit 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, to witness the debating monks. (B,L)

Day 12: 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. Next, explore Norbulingka, the summer residence of the Dalai Lama, set in parkland just outside the city. Learn to make delicious momo dumplings and enjoy lunch at Snowland Restaurants (B,L,D)

Days 13-14: 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 seat of the Panchen Lama. Take yak butter tea with a local family. The next day, continue by road to New Tingri admiring the awe-inspiring views of the mighty Himalayas as we go. (B,L,D)

Day 15: Everest Base Camp

Traverse some of the world's most incredible scenery, stopping en route at the world's highest post office, with the Himalayas dominating the horizon, as we make our

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
05 May - 27 May	£4,290	15 Sep - 07 Oct	£4,490
02 Jun - 24 Jun	£4,290	06 Oct - 28 Oct	£4,490
2019 DATES			
04 May - 26 May	£4,490	14 Sep - 06 Oct	£4,690
18 May - 09 Jun	£4,490	05 Oct - 27 Oct	£4,690

Price includes:

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- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,690 (Kunming - Chengdu)
- Single room from £640
- Tipping paid locally RMB 1,040

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.



27 DAYS FROM **PER PERSON £4,190** **FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK** **ALL MEALS - 25 BREAKFASTS, 24 LUNCHES, 25 DINNERS** **ACTIVE**

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Clinging to the stark, lunar landscape of Gansu, Jiayuguan Pass marks the western terminus of the Great Wall and is defended by a Ming-era fortress.



Find yourself on another planet as you wander through the colour-swirled Rainbow Mountains, a unique and remarkable landscape in Danxia National Park.



Drive between Turpan and Kashgar, following the ancient Silk Road; stopping at the desert townships of Kurla, Kuqa and Aksu.



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. (D)

Day 3: Terracotta Warriors

Housed in three immense hangars, the ranks of the Terracotta Army stand sentinel in their subterranean necropolis, constructed to protect China's first Emperor in the afterlife. Gaze over the ranks of warriors and horses, each one unique, whilst your guide introduces you to these life-like soldiers' fascinating story. Later, enjoy a gentle cycle ride that will take you the nine miles around the wall past many smiling

locals and take a walking tour of the narrow and winding streets of the Muslim Quarter. Sample the delicious, freshly cooked snacks and gain an insight into the city's fascinating culture. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Train to Lanzhou

Start the morning with an optional early visit to the local park to see Xian's residents taking part in Tai Chi and dancing. Visit the Xian Museum and the Little Wild Goose Pagoda. Later, board the train to Lanzhou. (B,L,D)

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. The next day, cross Liujiaxia

Lake by speed boat and 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. Also visit the statue of Maitreya (B,L,D)

Day 7: Tibetan Xiahe

Conquer the scenic Jishi Mountain Pass to arrive at Tibetan Xiahe. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Labrang Monastery

Giving a taste of the mysteries of Tibet, Labrang Monastery is a fascinating maze of prayer wheels, chapels and chortens. Dine on traditional Tibetan food for lunch, including Tibetan dumplings, known as momos. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Travel to Zhangye

Return to Lanzhou and take the speedy bullet train to Zhangye, once an important commercial town along the Silk Road. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Rainbow Mountains

Rise early this morning to witness the sunrise over the kaleidoscopic mountains in Danxia National Park. Return to Zhangye and visit the Giant Buddha Temple before boarding your bullet train to Jiayuguan. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Great Wall at 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. (B,L,D)

Day 12: City of Sands

Drive to Dunhuang. Located on a major trade and cultural crossroads, Dunhuang, known as the 'City of the Sands', sits in a verdant oasis on the edge of the Taklamakan Desert. Visit the Shazhou Night Market, where you can wander amongst the stalls, tasting local snacks. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Mogao Grottoes

A system of temples and sanctuaries, visit the Mogao Grottoes that exhibit wonderful examples of Buddhist paintings and statues that span thousands of years. (B,L,D)

Day 14: 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. (B,L,D)

Day 15: Turpan

Take the bullet train to Turpan, a lush green oasis set in a barren landscape. An easy-going town famed for its grapes, its pleasant streets are lined with lush vine trellises. (B,L,D)

Day 16: Explore Turpan

Visit the ruins of ancient Jiaohe and the striking red sandstone Flaming Mountains. See elegant Emin Minaret before visiting a typical home in grape valley. Also learn about the fascinating Karez irrigation canals. (B,L,D)

Days 17-20: The Silk Road

Over the next four days travel along the original Silk Road through the Xinjiang Region, viewing ruins and sights largely unvisited by tourists. Travel to Kurla and visit the ruins of the Iron Fortress. The next day, see the ruins of Subashi, arriving in Kuqa to visit the old city wall. Also see the Kyzil Thousand Buddha Caves before travelling to Aksu. Arrive in fabled Kashgar the following day. (B,L,D)

Day 21: 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. Today's visits include Abakh Hoja Tomb, Id Kah Mosque and the atmospheric alleyways around Id Kah Square. (B,L,D)

CHINA

Day 22: Kashgar Sunday Bazaar

Dive headlong into Central Asia'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. (B,L,D)

Days 23-24: Heavenly Lake

Escape to the tranquillity of Tianchi (Heavenly Lake), formed in a crater. Pay a visit to a Kazakh minority family in their yurt and spend some time with them, learning their way of life. Tonight, enjoy local Uyghur lamb skewers for dinner. The following day, make a short visit to the Xinjiang Museum before flying to Beijing. (B,L,D)

Day 25: 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. You will have an opportunity to visit a Jade Museum, where you will be able to buy a small handcrafted piece. Jade is revered throughout China, it is said to bring fortune and prosperity to those who wear it. In the afternoon, enjoy the idyllic landscapes of the Summer Palace as you wander through traditional Chinese gardens. (B,L,D)

Day 26: Imperial Beijing

Head to Beijing's symbolic heart, Tiananmen Square, and into the sprawling magnificence of the Forbidden City where you'll find a complex full of imperial treasures. Soak up the ambience of the Temple of Heaven before visiting Yandaixiejie, where you'll have some free time to wander the hutongs. These narrow alleys offer an authentic glimpse of the old Beijing before the emergence of high-rise buildings and modern commerce. Sit down for lunch with one of the families who call the hutongs home. This evening, dine on Peking duck and enjoy a Chinese acrobatic show. (B,L,D)

Day 27: Fly Beijing to UK

Fly to the UK arriving the same or following day. (B)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
15 Apr - 11 May	£4,190	02 Sep - 28 Sep	£4,290
06 May - 01 Jun	£4,190	16 Sep - 12 Oct	£4,290
20 May - 15 Jun	£4,190	07 Oct - 02 Nov	£4,290
2019 DATES			
14 Apr - 10 May	£4,490	01 Sep - 27 Sep	£4,590
05 May - 31 May	£4,490	15 Sep - 11 Oct	£4,590
19 May - 14 Jun	£4,490	06 Oct - 01 Nov	£4,590

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,590 (Xian - Beijing)
- Single room from £890
- Tipping paid locally RMB 1,130

TRAILS OF JAPAN

Prepare to immerse yourself in the wacky and wonderful in this fascinating land, including a Maid Café and Robot Restaurant. Trek at the foot of Fuji, meet the Snow Monkeys of Yudanaka, cycle in Kyoto and stay at a traditional Buddhist lodge. And you'll see all the classic highlights too.



JAPAN

This afternoon, travel by road to Koya-san, where you will spend the night in a 13th-century temple sleeping on a traditional futon on a tatami mat floor. (B,D)

Day 11: Morning Prayers

Rise early to join the monks for their daily morning service – hearing the recitation and chanting is a magical experience. After breakfast, take a walking tour of Koya-san. One of Japan's holiest sites, this mountain top sanctuary is full of temples and pagodas to explore. Pay a visit to Kongobuji Temple and Okunoin cemetery before travelling to Osaka. (B)

Day 12: Sake Brewery & Himeji

Take a day tour to Himeji to visit the 17th-century Himeji Castle, considered a prime example of Japanese feudal period architecture. Continue on to a sake brewery, where you can learn about the brewing process of this potent rice wine and enjoy some tastings. Return to Osaka and experience the bright and brash Dotonbori district. (B)

Day 13: Fly Osaka to UK

Transfer to the airport and fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

The maximum group size on this tour is 24.

KEEP EXPLORING



HIROSHIMA & MIYAJIMA 3 NIGHTS FROM £990pp

A city that needs little introduction, visit Hiroshima's emotive Peace Park to reflect on the events of the past and take the ferry over to Miyajima to see the famous Itsukushima Shrine with its giant vermilion torii gate lapped by the waters of the Inland Sea. You'll travel to and from Osaka by superfast bullet train.

13 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £5,490

FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

11 BREAKFASTS, 3 DINNERS

ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Mt Fuji walk



ultramodern Tokyo



chanting monks

Take a walk to remember, watched over by the perfectly symmetrical cone of Mount Fuji – there has never been a more perfect excuse to pause and catch your breath.

Explore the quirks and trends of modern Tokyo, visiting the high-tech districts of Harajuku and Akihabara to visit the Robot Restaurant and a Maid Café.

Spend the night on holy Koya-san and join the resident monks for their morning prayers – this mesmerising series of chants and recitations is a beautiful way to start the day.



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

Today you will explore the two sides of Tokyo, the modern and the traditional. The city tour begins at the Tokyo Skytree, the world's tallest tower at 634 metres. From the top, on a clear day, you may catch a glimpse of Mt Fuji. Close by is Asakusa, at the heart

of which is Sensoji, Tokyo's oldest temple, and the vibrant Nakamise shopping street. This afternoon drive by the famous Shibuya Crossing, before stopping at the tranquil Meiji Shrine and the vibrant district of Harajuku. Finally, it's time for a uniquely Tokyo experience – the Robot Restaurant. Here you'll experience what can only be described as a sci-fi cabaret – utterly surreal and only in Japan! Dinner is at leisure. (B)

Day 4: Japanese Drumming

This morning, try your hand at traditional Japanese drumming with a Taiko class, where you will learn the fundamental techniques of beating the 'wadaiko' with 'bachi'. Next, head to Akihabara, Tokyo's electronics district. Wander the neon-billboarded streets and visit a Maid Café, one of Tokyo's most popular types of themed establishments. In the afternoon, explore Tokyo's past at the Edo-Tokyo Museum or Tokyo National Museum. (B)

Day 5: Mount Fuji

The perfectly symmetrical cone of mighty Mt Fuji is the iconic image of Japan. This morning, you will journey out of Tokyo into some of Japan's beautiful countryside at the foot of the mountain. Pick up a hiking

trail and tramp through alpine forest, across meadows and around lakes at Fuji's base, pausing often to gaze on the peak towering above you. (B,D)

Day 6: Snow Monkeys

Travel to Matsumoto and explore the magnificent Matsumoto Castle, also known as 'Crow Castle' due to its black exterior. Continue to Nagano stopping in Yudanaka to visit the Japanese Macaques, or Snow Monkeys, at the Jigokudani Yaen-Koen (Monkey Park). These creatures are unique in the fact that they make use of the area's natural hot springs, bathing and playing in and around the water. (B)

Day 7: Japanese Alps

Travel to Hotaka and ride up into the Japanese Alps on the Shin-Hotaka Ropeway, reaching an observation platform at 2,156 metres, which gives breathtaking views over the surrounding mountains (weather permitting). Drive to Takayama where you will be staying at a ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn with onsen facilities. Here you can relax and bathe in the natural hot spring pools and experience this most traditional pastime. This afternoon you will have time to explore Kamisannomachi Street and sample the street food on offer. This evening enjoy a Hida beef dinner. (B,D)

Day 8: Bullet Train to Kyoto

Take a Limited Express train to Nagoya, where you'll change onto a Shinkansen bullet train to Kyoto. This afternoon, start discovering Kyoto's rich heritage with a visit to the enchanting Fushimi Inari Shrine with its pathway of vermilion torii gates before admiring the views over the city from Kiyomizu Temple. Stroll around the old neighbourhoods of Higashiyama and Gion, the geisha district, with a stop at Gion Corner, which showcases the seven professional performing arts. (B)

Day 9: Japanese Tea Ceremony

This morning take a half day tour of Kyoto by bicycle, starting at Kinkakuji, the 'Golden Pavilion', before contemplating Zen at Ryoanji, home to Japan's most famous classical garden. Continue to Arashiyama district where you will have some free time to explore the Bamboo Forest. Later in the afternoon, witness the rituals involved in the preparation and pouring of matcha tea in a traditional tea ceremony. (B)

Day 10: Kyoto Culture and Koya-san

Spend the morning discovering the craft of kimono creation and the complicated process of dressing in a traditional kimono at Nishijin Textile Centre, before a cultural experience that will see you learning the art of origami.

MONGOLIA & CENTRAL ASIA



OUR TOP TEN MONGOLIA & CENTRAL ASIA ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

1 TRAVERSE THE TORUGART PASS

Cut through the Tian Shan Mountains and over the Torugart Pass, a remote outpost marking the border of China and Kyrgyzstan; you'll feel like an adventurer of old as you pass through.



2 EXPLORE THE GOBI

Stay in a yurt camp on the plains of the Gobi, take a four-wheel drive through the curving, ever moving 'Singing Sand Dunes', and stand before the deep orange Flaming Cliffs of Bayanzag.



3 VALLEY OF FLOWERS

Take a stroll through the alpine Valley of Flowers near Jety-Oguz in Kyrgyzstan. Dotted with evergreen saw-toothed mountains, you would be forgiven for thinking you were in the Dolomites.



4 LAKE KHOVSGOL

Known as the 'Blue Pearl of Mongolia', Lake Khovsgol sits at the heart of its eponymous national park in some of Mongolia's most spectacular landscapes.



5 BUKHARA

Central Asia's holiest city and a pivotal destination on the Silk Road, Bukhara's 2,000 year history is written in its evocative skyline.



6 NAADAM FESTIVAL

The Naadam is the biggest celebration of the Mongolian calendar. You'll experience the proud nomadic culture and witness the three 'manly games'.



9 KHARKHORIN

Genghis Khan's headquarters in 1220, Kharkhorin was once the political, cultural and economic hub – today there is a monastery and many memories to explore.



7 HUNTING WITH EAGLES

In a unique demonstration of ancient Kyrgyz hunting, watch as a traditionally dressed eagle hunter and his beautiful bird seek out prey.



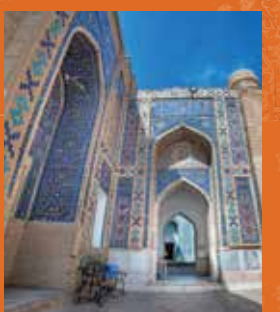
8 TRACE THE SILK ROAD

Follow the original Silk Road overland, from China's Xinjiang Region to Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.



10 SAMARKAND

Referred to as the 'crossroad of world cultures', legendary Samarkand's Registan Square remains as atmospheric today as when it was founded in the 7th century.



MONGOLIA & THE NAADAM FESTIVAL

To most, Mongolia is a place of mystery and 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

Days 14-15: 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. (B,L,D)

Day 16: Lake Khovsgol to Ulaanbaatar

Travel through more delightful scenery to the city of Moron, where you will have the afternoon at leisure. Fly to Ulaanbaatar. (B,L,D)

Days 17-18: Naadam Festival

Spend two 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. (B,L,D)

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. (B,L,D)

Day 20: Ulaanbaatar

Drive back to Ulaanbaatar, visiting the Genghis Khan statue complex en route. (B,L,D)

Day 21: Bogd King Palace

Visit the Bogd King Palace Museum and Zaisan Memorial Hill. Also pick up some last minute souvenirs at the State Department Store and Cashmere Factory. This evening, watch a traditional folklore performance. (B,L,D)

Day 22: Ulaanbaatar to UK

Fly back home arriving the same or following day. (B)

22 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £5,490 FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK ALL MEALS - 20 BREAKFASTS, 19 LUNCHES, 20 DINNERS ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Naadam Festival

The defining festival of a country, the 'Three Manly Games' attract villagers and nomads from across Mongolia. Witness a cultural spectacular.



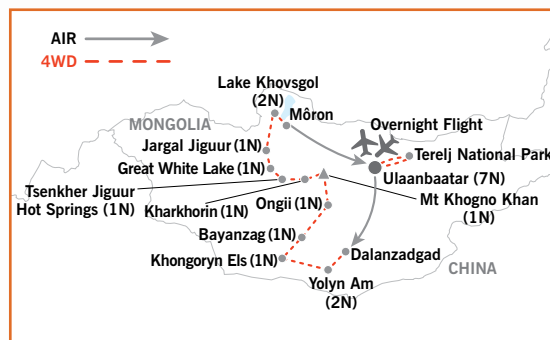
Nomadic Ger Camps

When travelling through the wilderness, nights spent in a cosy Ger Camp will give you a taste of a truly nomadic Mongolian way of life.



Gobi Desert

Travel through the Gobi Desert to see many of Mongolia's renowned landscapes, including Eagle Valley and the sand dunes at Khongoryn Els.



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. (D)

Day 3: Explore Ulaanbaatar

Ulaanbaatar is a great place to get an understanding of Mongolia before travelling around the country. Visit the Museum of Mongolian History and the Museum of Fine Art to help put your journey in context. Also discover Gandan Monastery, the largest and most important in Mongolia. (B,L,D)

Days 4-5: Gobi Desert

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. Visit a local family to learn about their life in the desert. We also hike through the magnificent Yolyn Am Gorge. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Khongoryn Els Dunes

Embark on a 4WD adventure to Khongoryn Els and explore Mongolia's largest sand dunes, also known as the 'Singing Sand Dunes'. Enjoy the beauty of these stark landscapes, and for those who are feeling adventurous, climb to the top for fantastic views. (B,L,D)

Day 7: 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. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Ongii Khiid Monastery

Journey to the banks of the Ongii River and view the atmospheric ruins of two monasteries – Barlim Khiid and Khutagt Khiid, which form Ongii Khiid, formerly one of the largest monastic complexes in Mongolia. (B,L,D)

Day 9: 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. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Kharkhorin City

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 Khanbaliq – 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. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Tsenkher Jiguur Hot Springs

Lounge in the volcanic hot springs of Tsenkher Jiguur, surrounded by verdant scenery. (B,L,D)

Day 12: 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. Also visit Zayaiin Khuree Monastery in Tsetserleg Town. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Jargal Jiguur

Spend a little more time lingering in the spectacular panoramas of Great White Lake before driving to Jargal Jiguur ger camp. Here you can bathe in the hot springs. (B,L,D)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
25 Jun - 16 Jul	£5,490	08 Jul - 29 Jul*	£5,490
2019 DATES			
24 Jun - 15 Jul	£5,990	07 Jul - 28 Jul*	£5,990

*Itinerary operates in reverse, please contact us for details.

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £4,790 (Ulaanbaatar - Ulaanbaatar)
- Single room from £740
- Tipping paid locally US\$110

ROAD TO SAMARKAND

Journey through the heart of Central Asia crossing beautiful deserts and mountain landscapes. Discover ancient cities full of intricate Islamic architecture, thriving bazaars and a mystical old-world atmosphere, all linked with the legends of the Silk Road.

CENTRAL ASIA

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, Bolo Hauz Mosque and the summer residence of the last Bukharan Emirs. (B,L,D)

■ 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 – it has 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-Khanym Mosque, Shah-I-Zinda and the Ulugh Beg Observatory. (B,L,D)

■ Day 22: Samarkand to Colourful Tashkent

Begin the return journey to Tashkent, passing through the impressive Gates of Tamerlane. The 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. (B,L,D)

■ Day 23: Tashkent

Explore famous sights around Tashkent including the Museum of Applied Arts, 1966 earthquake memorial, Independence Square, Alishedr Navoi Theatre and the Amir Timur Maydoni before exploring Broadway Street. (B,L,D)

■ Day 24: Fly Tashkent to UK

Wake early this morning for your flight to the UK arriving the same day. (B)

24 DAYS FROM **PER PERSON £4,990** **FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK** **ALL MEALS - 22 BREAKFASTS, 21 LUNCHES, 22 DINNERS** **ACTIVE**

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Togart Pass

Journey over the Tian Shan Heavenly Mountains to Kyrgyzstan, through the stunningly remote, wind-whipped Togart Pass.



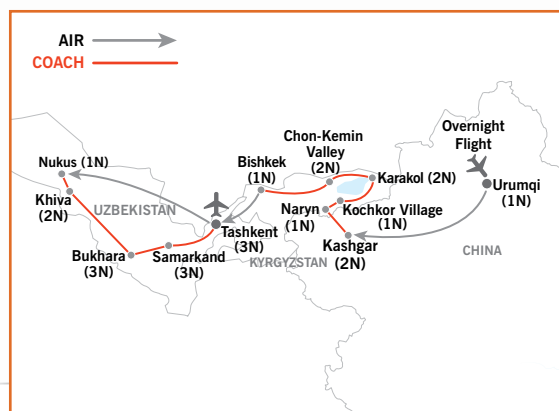
Eagle Hunting

On the banks of Lake Issyk-Kul, a skilled Eagle Hunter will demonstrate the complex working relationship between man and beast.



Samarkand

Birthplace of Tamerlane, Samarkand is an enigmatic Silk Road city, sparking the imagination of travellers for centuries.



■ 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. (D)

■ Day 3: Tian Chi Heavenly Lake

Escape to the tranquillity of Tianchi Heavenly Lake, a crystal clear body of water formed in a crater. In the evening, fly to the remote city of Kashgar, the heart of the Silk Road. (B,L,D)

■ 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. (B,L,D)

■ Day 5: Tian Shan Mountains

Cross the border into Kyrgyzstan through the magnificent Tianshan Heavenly Mountains. Making our way over the Torugart Pass to Naryn, stop en route at the 15th-century caravanserai at Tash Rabat. (B,L,D)

■ Days 6-7: Eagle Hunting and Karakol

Drive to Kochkor Village and watch a Shyrdak (carpet) demonstration. 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. (B,L,D)

■ 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-Oguz and through the beautiful Valley of Flowers. The next day, visit the Przhvalsky Museum and Semenov Gorge before driving to Cholpon-Ata. Cruise on Lake Issyk Kul and explore animal petroglyphs etched into glacial stone. (B,L,D)

■ Day 10: Ethnic Ashu Village

Walk in the foothills of the mountains and take in the daily way of life in Ashu Village. (B,L,D)

■ Day 11: Bishkek Folk Performance

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, visit Ala Too Square and Oak Park. In the evening, enjoy a traditional folk performance. (B,L,D)

■ Day 12: Tashkent

This morning, take a leisurely hike in Ala Archa National Park. Evening flight to Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. (B,L,D)

■ Day 13: Explore Nukus

Fly to Nukus and visit Savitskiy museum before exploring Mizdahkan, an Islamic complex in Hojeli Village. (B,L,D)

■ Day 14: Desert Fortress

Discover the magnificent desert fortress of Chalkik Kala (Tower of Silence), Kizil Kala Fortress, Toprak Kala Fortress, Ayaz Kala and Kyrkkyz Kala. Arrive in Khiva. (B,L,D)

■ Day 15: 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. (B,L,D)

■ Days 16-18: Sacred Bukhara

After a day's drive across the Kyzyl Kum Desert, arrive at the holiest city in Central Asia, Bukhara. Bukhara has been built up over thousands of years, and has an

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES

06 May - 29 May **£4,990** 02 Sep - 25 Sep **£5,190**

2019 DATES

12 May - 04 Jun **£5,290** 01 Sep - 24 Sep **£5,490**

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £4,390 (Urumqi - Tashkent)
- Single room from £690
- Tipping paid locally RMB 180 China, US\$145 Kyrgyzstan & Uzbekistan

SOUTHEAST ASIA



OUR TOP TEN SOUTHEAST ASIA ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

1 TREKKING IN SAPA

Hike the rice fields around Sapa, passing through villages and stopping to take in spectacular views on a less-traversed route through this breathtaking part of Vietnam. Meet hilltribe people as you take a class in Batik painting in one of the villages.



2 FARMER AND FISHERMAN EXPERIENCE

Jump on your bicycle and take a beautiful route through Hoi An's charming rural scenery to share the work of a local farmer and attempt to paddle the unique bamboo basket boats of the local fishermen.



3 MINES ADVISORY GROUP, LAOS

Visit the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and speak to its head about the vital work it does clearing the unexploded ordnance dropped on Laos during the Vietnam War and educating the local people.



4 HANOI STREET EATS

Embark on a culinary adventure through the street food of Hanoi, a city that has food stalls on every corner. Taste local delicacies, cooked fresh just for you.



5 ANGKOR WAT BY TUK TUK

See the famous Angkor Wat from the seat of a rickshaw. Pass by lotus-like towers, dense jungle and visiting monks.



6 MEKONG DELTA BY BICYCLE

Wheel quietly through the verdant Delta on a bicycle rickshaw, passing peaceful villages to get an insight into local life in the 'Rice Basket of Vietnam'.



9 MEET BURMA'S PADAUNG PEOPLE

The women of the Padaung tribe, with their necks elongated by heavy bronze rings, are one of the enduring images of Burma. Visit a Padaung community and meet these women to spend some time getting to know their way of life, their stories and their culture.



7 HIKE REMOTE HOANG SU PHI

Walk through rural Hoang Su Phi mountainous area, stopping in a Red Yao village to learn more about their daily lives.



8 VESPA THROUGH SAIGON

Ride pillion on a vintage Vespa in classic Saigon style on a night time food adventure. Enjoy a cocktail before venturing to a favourite local eating spot, finishing in a lively bar.



10 FLOATING VILLAGES, SIEM REAP

The floating villages of Tonle Sap Lake provide an insight into a totally different way of life. Wave at the friendly locals as you float along the village 'streets' and watch them going about their daily business on and above the water.



NEW
VIETNAM EXPLORER

Explore the best bits of Vietnam - Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hue, Hoi An and Saigon, on a flexible itinerary that gives you the choice to discover each destination independently or choose between a series of wonderful cultural experiences. This tour is Vietnam, your way.



14 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £2,490

FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

11 BREAKFASTS, 6 LUNCHES, 4 DINNERS

FLEXIBLE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Personal exploration

Choose between optional excursions and free time, so if you want to delve deeper into Hanoi, Hue, Hoi An and Saigon on your own terms, you can.



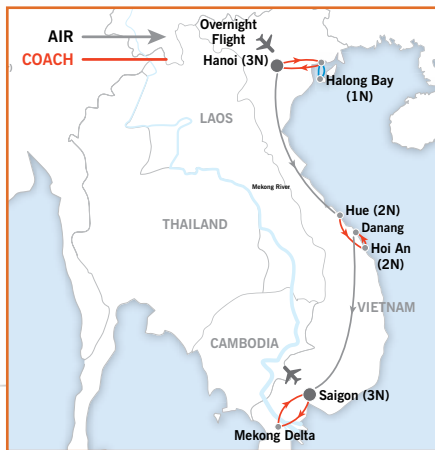
Hanoi Coffee Break

Take a break from exploring to sip on a 'ca phe trung' (egg coffee) with the locals in one of Hanoi Old Quarter's many coffee shops.



Mekong Delta

Wind through sleepy backwaters and luscious plantations in a traditional boat, and discover a more relaxed pace of life in the Delta.



Days 1-2: Fly to Hanoi

Fly overnight to Hanoi, Vietnam's colonially-influenced, atmospheric capital. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening. (D)

Day 3: Discover Hanoi

Start the day exploring the Ho Chi Minh Quarter, visiting the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the Stilt House and the Temple of Literature. Next, take a thrilling cyclo ride through the

bustling streets of the Old Quarter, with a stop for local delicacy 'ca phe trung' (egg coffee) en route. This evening, enjoy a performance of a traditional water puppets show. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Cruise Halong Bay

Travel to Halong Bay. Board your ship for a serene and unforgettable cruise on the glassy, limestone-studded waters. You'll pass by quaint fishing towns, taste freshly caught seafood and admire the ever-changing vistas of the bay. There are many activities to take part in while you're onboard - swim in the cool waters of the bay, explore stalagmite and stalactite-filled caves, and even squid fishing (in season). (B,L,D)

Day 5: Tai Chi

Rise early to catch the sunrise over the karst peaks of the bay and practice Tai Chi on deck. After brunch onboard, return to the dock and travel back to Hanoi. On arrival, enjoy free time or choose from two optional activities. 1) A mini backstage tour at the Hanoi Opera House of the cultural show 'Lang Toi', followed by dinner and the evening performance of the show itself. Or 2) discover the varied and delicious flavours of Vietnamese street food on a tour of Hanoi's very best street eats. (B)

Day 6: Imperial Hue

Fly to Hue, Vietnam's old imperial capital and

a city considered the country's hub of culture. This afternoon, visit Minh Mang Tomb, set on peaceful spot outside the city, before exploring the decaying grandeur of Hue's Imperial Citadel. Admire the old Thien Mu Pagoda before taking a cruise along the picturesque Perfume River. Later, you may choose an optional royal dining experience, where you will dine on authentic food and be entertained, all in the imperial style. Otherwise, the evening is free for your own explorations. (B,L)

Day 7: Hue Experiences

Today is a day at leisure for your own explorations, or you can choose between the following experiences. 1) Take a half day cycling tour of Hue and its beautiful rural surroundings, stopping for lunch with the nuns of a nearby pagoda, or 2) learn 'truc chi', creating art with bamboo paper, on a half day visit to a workshop. (B)

Day 8: Travel to Hoi An

Journey by road to the charming town of Hoi An, crossing over the scenic Hai Van Pass. This afternoon, wander the old cobbled streets and soak up the delights of Hoi An, with visits to a pagoda, an old Chinese meeting house and the Reaching Out arts and crafts workshop. (B,L)

Day 9: Hoi An Experiences

Today is a day at leisure for your own explorations, or you can choose between the following experiences. 1) A cooking class, with

a visit to the produce market to select fresh, local ingredients, where you'll learn the tricks and techniques of Vietnamese cuisine or 2) A full day farmer and fisherman experience, where you can try your hand at traditional farming techniques in the rural village of Tra Que, before learning to paddle round bamboo boats and cast fishing nets. (B)

Day 10: Fly to Saigon

Fly to Saigon. The afternoon is at leisure. (B)

Day 11: Cu Chi Tunnels

This morning, discover the Cu Chi Tunnels, an amazing underground network used by the Viet Cong during the war. Return to Saigon and tour the city, visiting the grand colonial Notre Dame Cathedral and Central Post Office as well as delving into Vietnam's recent history at the Reunification Palace and War Remnants Museum. This evening is free for your own explorations, or you can opt for dinner and a performance of the AO Show, a music, dance and acrobatic spectacular at the Saigon Opera House. (B,L)

Day 12: Mekong Delta

Transfer to Ben Tre, in the heart of the Mekong Delta, where visiting local cottage industries and taste the delicious produce of the region, before lunching on typically Mekong fare. This afternoon, take a boat trip through the palm-lined canals and waterways to visit small islands, a floating village and pagoda. Return to Saigon. (B,L,D)

Days 13-14: Fly Saigon to UK

This morning is at leisure for your own explorations, or you can take an optional cyclo tour around Saigon's Chinatown. Later, transfer to the airport and fly to the UK, arriving home the following day. (B)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
13 Apr - 26 Apr	£2,490	12 Oct - 25 Oct	£2,590
14 Sep - 27 Sep	£2,590	09 Nov - 22 Nov	£2,690
2019 DATES			
25 Jan - 07 Feb	£2,890	13 Sep - 26 Sep	£2,790
22 Feb - 07 Mar	£2,890	11 Oct - 24 Oct	£2,890
15 Mar - 28 Mar	£2,790	08 Nov - 21 Nov	£2,890
12 Apr - 25 Apr	£2,790		

Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £1,890 (Hanoi - Saigon)
- Single room from £290
- Tipping paid locally US\$84

NEW

VIETNAM ADVENTURE

Embark on an epic adventure through incredible Vietnam! Hike through the rice terraces of Sapa and meet ethnic minority people, cruise Halong Bay and the lush Mekong Delta, explore astonishing caves and vibrant, heritage-filled cities, all while immersing yourself in Vietnam's colourful culture.



20

DAYS FROM

PER PERSON

£2,990



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK



17 BREAKFASTS, 16 LUNCHES, 12 DINNERS



ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Sapa Hike

Covered in curvaceous, verdant rice terraces, Sapa is a gem to explore. Stop at ethnic villages to learn more about life in the area.



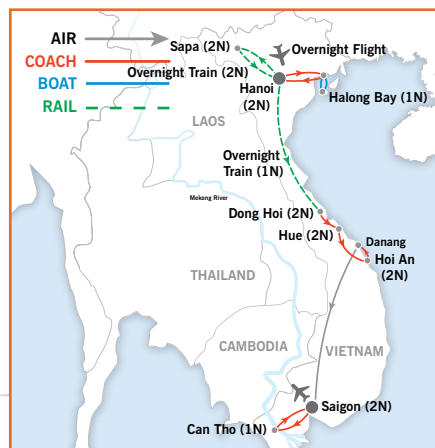
Hoi An by Bicycle

Crumbling, flower-covered houses give way to green fields and seaside as you cycle through the charming streets of Hoi An.



Mekong Delta

Wind over sleepy backwaters and through luscious jungle on the back of a rickshaw, and discover a more relaxed pace of life in the Delta.



Days 1-2: Fly to Hanoi

Fly overnight to Hanoi, Vietnam's colonially-influenced, atmospheric capital. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening. (D)

Day 3: Discover Local Hanoi

Begin with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Complex and the Ethnology Museum to learn about the country's ethnic groups. Enjoy lunch at Koto restaurant before visiting a water puppet artist - for a chance to participate in the creation of the puppets and to enjoy a private performance.

Tonight, discover Hanoi's street-side night life and taste the varied flavours of Vietnamese street food such as Pho Cuon and Banh Xeo - a truly local way of eating dinner! (B,L,D)

Day 4: Temple of Literature and Lao Cai

Rise early today and visit the fabulous flower market in Quang Ba, and see Tai Chi at Hoan Kiem Lake - an oasis of peace and daily life in the centre of Hanoi. Visit the Temple of Literature and the Old Quarter, with a stop for local delicacy 'ca phe trung' (egg coffee) en route. Board the overnight train to Lao Cai. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Sapa Minority Villages

After an early morning arrival and breakfast, transfer to beautiful Sapa. Later you will trek through luscious, stepped rice paddies and hills visiting small villages to rest and meet the residents, ending your walk at Ham Rong Mountain. (B,L)

Day 6: Sapa Trekking

Your Sapa adventure continues with approximately seven hours of trekking through the rice terraces, visiting the H'mong villages of Y Linh Ho and Cat Cat. Continue to Ta Van and Lao Chai villages, try your hand at batik painting, in a class lead by a Black H'mong woman. Sit down for a chat with an ethnic minority family in Lao Chai. (B,L)

Day 7: Train to Hanoi

Take a free morning to soak up views around Sapa before an afternoon trek between Hau Thao and Giang Ta Chai villages - at Giang Ta Chai, there is an attractive waterfall. All aboard the overnight train to Hanoi. (B,L,D)

Days 8-9: Cruise Halong Bay

Arrive into Hanoi and depart for Halong Bay. Board your vessel for a serene and unforgettable cruise on the glassy, limestone-studded waters. Pass by quaint fishing towns, taste freshly caught seafood and admire the vistas of the bay. There are many activities to take part in while you're onboard - swim in the cool waters of the bay, explore stalagmite and stalactite-filled caves, and even squid fishing (in season). (B,L,D) On day 9, rise early to catch the sunrise over the karst peaks of the bay and practice Tai Chi on deck. Return to Hanoi and board the overnight train to Dong Hoi. (B,D)

Day 10: Phong Nha Cave

This morning, arrive in the coastal city of Dong Hoi, gateway to Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park. The park is home to more karst landscapes within which have formed some of the world's most spectacular caves. You will explore Phong Nha, only accessible by river. Once inside the cave, your boatman will row you 1.5kms into the 45 km long cave, whilst you marvel at the incredible caverns filled with stalactites. You will also explore one cave on foot. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Paradise Cave

Spend the morning discovering the wonders of the cathedral-esque Paradise Cave. (B,L)

Day 12: DMZ

Take a full day tour to the DMZ, the buffer that existed between North Vietnam and South Vietnam during the War. You'll visit the Vinh Moc tunnels and battleground of Khe Sanh before driving on to Hue, Vietnam's last imperial capital. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Hue's Imperial City

Embark on a cyclo tour of the city, heading to the Imperial Citadel and Purple Forbidden City - built in 1362 it was home to Vietnam's Nguyen dynasty from 1802 to 1945. The banks of the Perfume River outside the city are dotted with UNESCO-listed Imperial tombs - visit Minh Mang's before cruising on the river itself. (B,L)

Day 14: Hoi An Walking Tour

Journey to Hoi An, stopping en route to visit the Lady Buddha, a 67 metre high Bodhisattva of Mercy, on the picturesque Son Tra peninsula. Arrive in Hoi An and head out onto the town's charming streets on a walking tour that will take you past old Chinese trader's houses to the elaborate Japanese Bridge. (B,L,D)

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Day 15: Farmer and Fisherman Experience

Hop on your bike today and pedal through the scenic rice paddies outside Hoi An. Pay a visit to local farmers where you can try your hand at traditional farming techniques - look out for water buffalo! Enjoy a relaxed boat ride to a peaceful fishing village, where you can try making a fishing net and go paddling in unique bamboo basket boats. (B,L)

Day 16: Explore Saigon

Transfer to Danang and fly to the vibrant city of Saigon. On arrival, explore Saigon's, admiring Notre Dame cathedral and Central Post Office, before strolling the grand Rue Catinat to the Hotel Continental. Later, ascend to the rooftop bar of the Hotel Caravelle for city views, before an exhilarating ride through Saigon's streets, riding pillion on the back of a vintage Vespa. Stop for a cocktail before continuing to a favourite local eating spot or two. Wind up your night with drinks and live music. (B,L,D)

Day 17: Mekong Delta

Head south to Ben Tre and board a small boat to meander through the waterways of the Mekong Delta, the perfect way to explore the lush, green landscapes. Stop for a stroll through a local village and to see mat weavers at work. A tuk tuk will then deliver you to the pier to board 'Le Jarai', a beautifully restored teak rice barge where, as you continue cruising you can enjoy a cooking demonstration and a three-course lunch of Mekong specialities. Travel to the delta city of Can Tho. (B,L,D)

Day 18: Cai Rang Floating Market

Pay a morning visit to Cai Rang floating market, where you'll see boats piled high with the colourful produce of the region. Take a relaxed cycle through beautiful, peaceful countryside before returning to Saigon. (B,L,D)

Days 19-20: Fly Saigon to UK

This morning, explore the astounding Cu Chi Tunnels, used by the Viet Cong during the war. Transfer to the airport and fly to the UK, arriving home the following day. (B,L)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES

02 Feb - 21 Feb	£2,990	18 May - 06 Jun	£3,190
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20 Aug - 08 Sep	£3,190
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2019 DATES

08 Feb - 27 Feb	£3,290	17 May - 05 Jun	£3,490
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19 Aug - 07 Sep	£3,490
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Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,390 (Hanoi - Saigon)
- Single room from £440
- Tipping paid locally US\$108

VIETNAM & CAMBODIA DISCOVERY

Discover two fascinating countries. Hike through the verdant rice terraces of Hoang Su Phi and taste the street food in Hanoi. Your journey ends with an unforgettable exploration of the Angkor Wat complex by tuk tuk.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Day 16: Mekong Delta

This morning visit Vinh Bac bonsai and flower village. Pay a visit to Cai Nhum Cathedral before returning to Saigon. (B,L)

Day 17: Cambodian Circus

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Siem Reap. There is a special treat that awaits in the form of a performance from the PHARE Cambodian Circus, an NGO that teaches street children to become internationally renowned circus artists. (B,L,D)

Day 18: Angkor Wat by Tuk Tuk

What better way to see the world famous Angkor temple complex than from the back of a traditional tuk tuk? You'll explore Angkor Wat, the centrepiece of Siem Reap's famous temples, before riding your tuk tuk to Angkor Thom and the Bayon Temple, a 12th-century masterpiece. Lastly, buried deep in the jungle, you will find Ta Prohm; a photogenic and atmospheric smorgasbord of trees wound through temple ruins. (B,L)

Day 19: Kompong Kleang Floating Village High water season (Aug-Feb)

Visit Kompong Kleang, a settlement of over 20,000 people housed in wooden structures on stilts, suspended up to ten metres above the water. Greeted by waves of friendly locals, here you can glimpse Cambodia's countryside culture and easy going family lifestyle. After lunch, head out into the dense forest and find the hidden temple of Beng Mealea, whose wonders lay undiscovered for centuries. (B,L,D)

Low water season (Mar-Jul)

Journey into rural Cambodia and visit a local village where you will ride an ox cart through the fields before touring the village where you can participate in fishing or farming; learning more about the way of life here. Return to Siem Reap, visiting Bend Mealea on the way. (B,L,D)

Days 20-21: Fly Siem Reap to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the following day. (B)

21 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £3,390 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK 18 BREAKFASTS, 15 LUNCHES, 12 DINNERS ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Hoang Su Phi

Sapa's premier trekking destination, Hoang Su Phi's Rice Terraces change year round – from glassy pools of water to cascading layers of green.



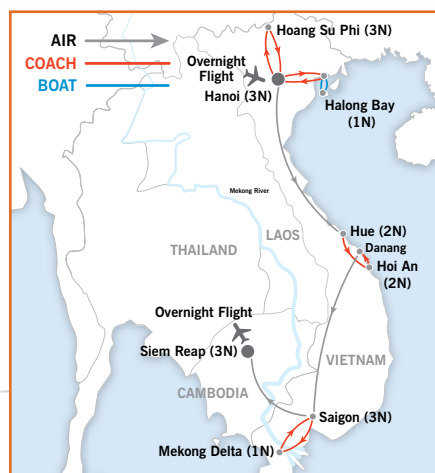
Saigon by Vespa

In true Vietnamese style, ride pillion through the streets of Saigon on a night time adventure, stopping for cocktails and local food.



Angkor by Tuk Tuk

Unleash your inner Indiana Jones on a tuk tuk adventure through the mysterious, forest-consumed temples of Angkor.



Days 1-2: Fly to Hanoi

Fly to Hanoi, Vietnam's colonially influenced atmospheric capital. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is at leisure. (D)

Day 3: Discover local Hanoi

Start your day with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh complex and the Ethnology Museum to learn about the country's ethnic groups. Next, stop at the Confucian Temple of Literature, before taking a walking tour of the bustling streets of the Old

Quarter, before visiting Ngoc Son temple, perched on an island in Hoan Kiem Lake. This evening, stroll amongst the city's unique street-side night life and food vendors. Taste the varied flavours of Vietnamese street food such as Pho Cuon and Banh Xeo – this is where the locals come to meet, dine and have a good time. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Hoang Su Phi

After breakfast travel to Hoang Su Phi, an area of emerald green rice terraces. The rest of the day is at leisure to begin exploring. (B,L,D)

Days 5-6: Hike through the Rice Terraces

Take an unforgettable journey on foot through the epic rice terraces of Hoang Su Phi. As you turn every corner, a new view of this outstanding landscape of lush, mist-wreathed terraces will unfold in front of you, providing a plethora of unreal photo opportunities. You'll make stops at a Red Dao village to learn about local life in the area, a Tay village to have lunch in a family home and a colourful local market. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Return to Hanoi

Travel back to Hanoi and spend the rest of the day at leisure. (B,L)

Days 8-9: Cruise Halong Bay

Depart for Halong Bay. Board your vessel for a serene and unforgettable cruise on the glassy,

limestone-studded waters. Pass by quaint fishing towns, taste freshly caught seafood and admire the ever-changing vistas of the bay. There are many activities to take part in while you're onboard – swim in the cool waters of the bay, explore stalagmite and stalactite-filled caves, and even squid fishing (in season). (B,L,D) On day 9, rise early to catch the sunrise over the karst peaks of the bay and practice Tai Chi on deck. Return to Hanoi and fly to Hue. (B,D)

Day 10: Imperial Hue by Bicycle

Cycle through Hue for a tour of the imperial sights. Start at the Imperial City, then continue to Phu Mong Garden House, part of Hue's legacy from the Nguyen Dynasty. Stop by Thien Mu Pagoda overlooking the Perfume River before driving to Tu Duc Tomb. From here, take a cyclo tour along the banks of the Perfume River. (B,L)

Day 11: Charming Hoi An

Drive to Hoi An, stopping en route at the Museum of Cham Sculpture. Spend the afternoon wandering the beautiful, flower-covered streets of this ancient town. Walk past Chinese traders' homes, visit local artists and tailors and walk through the 16th-century Japanese Bridge. Arguably Vietnam's friendliest town, Hoi An is always a favourite for relaxed exploration. (B,L)

Day 12: Farmer and Fisherman Experience

Hop on your bike today and wheel through the scenic rice paddies outside Hoi An. Pay a visit to local farmers where you can try your hand

at traditional farming techniques – look out for water buffalo! Enjoy a calming boat ride to a peaceful fishing village, where you can try making a fishing net and go paddling in unique bamboo basket boats. (B,L)

Day 13: Saigon Vespa Tour

Enjoy some free time in this beautiful town before flying to Saigon in the late afternoon. This evening take an exhilarating ride on the back of a vintage Vespa, classic Saigon pillion style. Stop for a cocktail before continuing to a favourite local eating spot. Wind up your night with drinks, accompanied by a live band. (B,D)

Day 14: Saigon Old and New

This morning discover the amazing network of the Cu Chi Tunnels. On the way back to Saigon there is an option to visit a Wildlife Rescue Station, that aims to stop the endangered wildlife trade in Vietnam. Continue to Reunification Palace, the Central Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral and the War Remnants Museum. (B,L,D)

Day 15: Ben Tre by Bicycle

Drive to Ben Tre and set out on a boat trip through winding, palm tree-lined canals. Cycle through rice fields and coconut groves and visit Mr. Sau Khanh's house – a peasant has collected a lot of ancient ceramics, potteries like bowls, vases and sculptures originally from Asia. Spend the night in a riverside resort. (B,L,D)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
16 Feb - 08 Mar	£3,490	19 Oct - 08 Nov	£3,590
02 Mar - 22 Mar	£3,390	23 Nov - 13 Dec	£3,590
16 Mar - 05 Apr	£3,390		
2019 DATES			
15 Feb - 07 Mar	£3,690	18 Oct - 07 Nov	£3,790
01 Mar - 21 Mar	£3,590	08 Nov - 28 Nov	£3,790
15 Mar - 04 Apr	£3,490		

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,790 (Hanoi - Siem Reap)
- Single room from £380
- Tipping paid locally US\$90

NEW

INDOCHINA: THE BIG ONE

This complete Indochina adventure, covering Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, shows you the highlights of the region whilst giving you plenty of time for independent exploration and a choice of experiences to help you delve deeper into the local culture and heritage.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

28

DAYS FROM

PER PERSON

£4,190



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK



25 BREAKFASTS, 14 LUNCHES, 8 DINNERS



FLEXIBLE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Personal exploration

Choose between optional excursions and free time, so if you want to delve deeper into Hanoi, Hue, Hanoi and Saigon on your own terms, you can.



Mai Chau on foot

Hike through the beautiful rurality of Mai Chau and meet some of the many ethnic minority communities that call the area home.



Angkor by tuk tuk

Unleash your inner explorer on a tuk tuk adventure through the mysterious, jungle-consumed temples of Angkor.



Days 1-2: Fly to Saigon

Fly overnight to Saigon. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening. (D)

Day 3: Explore Saigon

This morning, visit the Cu Chi Tunnels. Return to Saigon and tour the city, visiting Notre Dame Cathedral, Central Post Office, Reunification Palace and War Remnants Museum. (B,L)

Day 4: The Mekong Delta

Transfer to Ben Tre in the heart of the Mekong Delta, where you can visit local cottage industries. Cycle through lush scenery to a local house for lunch. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Cho Lach

Continue exploring lush delta landscapes and visit Vinh Bac bonsai and flower village. Return to Saigon. This evening is free, or there are three optional excursions available: 1) dinner and an A O Show performance at the Saigon Opera House, 2) a tour of Saigon at night on a Vespa, or 3) discover delicious street food on a tour of Saigon's best street eats. (B,L)

Day 6: Discover Hoi An

Fly to Danang and transfer to charming Hoi An. This afternoon, wander the old cobbled streets and soak up the town's delights. (B,L)

Day 7: Hoi An Experiences

Today is at leisure for your own explorations, or choose between these optional experiences. 1) a cooking class, with a visit to the produce market, or 2) a full day farmer and fisherman experience, learning traditional techniques of both. (B)

Day 8: Travel to Hue

Journey by road to Hue via the Hai Van Pass and stop en route at the Son Tra Peninsula. (B,L)

Day 9: Explore Hue

Take a cyclo ride up to Hue's Imperial Citadel and stroll amongst its decaying grandeur. Visit the Imperial Tomb of Minh Mang, before admiring Thien Mu Pagoda and a cruise on the Perfume River. (B,L)

Day 10: Fly to Hanoi

Fly to Hanoi, Vietnam's atmospheric capital. This evening is free, with the option of taking a mini backstage tour of the Hanoi Opera House, followed by dinner and a performance of 'Lang Toi'. (B)

Day 11: Discover Hanoi

Explore the Ho Chi Minh Quarter, visiting the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the Stilt House and the Temple of Literature. Next, take a thrilling cyclo ride through the bustling streets of the Old Quarter. This evening, enjoy a traditional water puppets show. (B,L)

Day 12: Mai Chau

Journey west to Mai Chau, where a patchwork of rice fields and tiny stilt house villages are set against a backdrop of rolling hills. Walk to the ethnic minority villages of Pom Coong and Lac to meet communities and explore magnificent Mo Luong cave. This evening, enjoy dinner with a traditional dance performance in Lac village. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Mai Chau Experiences

Today is at leisure, or choose between these optional experiences. 1) spend the day walking

1) a Vietnamese cooking class, or 2) a tour of Hanoi's hidden gems. Later, fly to Luang Prabang, Asia's most atmospheric city. (B)

Day 18: See Luang Prabang

Rise early to witness the daily dawn ceremony of Takbat, before heading to the beautiful Kuangsi Waterfalls and the Sun Bear Conservation Centre. Later, see Wat Xieng Thong and take in the sunset views from Mount Phousi. This evening is free, with the option of taking part in a traditional Baci ceremony. (B,L)

Day 19: Fly to Vientiane

This morning is at leisure with two optional experiences available: 1) learn about the traditional uses of bamboo, from products to food with a bamboo experience, or 2) travel up the Mekong by boat to visit the Pak Ou Caves. This afternoon, fly to Vientiane. (B)

Day 20: Explore Vientiane

Nestled in a languid bend in the Mekong, Vientiane is a delightfully quaint city. Visit the city's most important sights - Wat Si Saket, Wat Phra Keo, That Luang Stupa and Patuxai Victory Monument before spending time amongst the weird and wonderful sculptures of the Buddha Park. This evening, enjoy a dinner and a Laos music and dance performance. (B,L,D)

Day 21: Fly to Phnom Penh

Fly to Phnom Penh, Cambodia's captivating capital city. (B,D)

amongst the incredible limestone landscapes of Pu Luong Nature Reserve, or 2) a cycling adventure through Mai Chau, an alternative way to see this beautiful, untouched area. (B)

Day 14: Return to Hanoi

A morning at leisure before returning to Hanoi. (B)

Day 15: Cruise Halong Bay

Travel to Halong Bay. Board your vessel for a serene and unforgettable cruise on the glassy, limestone-studded waters. (B,L,D)

Day 16: Tai Chi

Rise early to catch the sunrise over the karst peaks of the bay and practice Tai Chi on deck. After brunch onboard, return to the dock and travel back to Hanoi. On arrival, enjoy free time. (B)

Day 17: Fly to Laos

This morning is at leisure, with two optional activities available:



Day 22: Explore Phnom Penh

Take a cyclo through the city to Wat Phnom before heading to the glittering Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, and the National Museum. This afternoon is free, with two optional experiences: 1) a visit to Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Killing Fields, or 2) a boat trip up the Mekong to Silk Island to visit a silk weaving village. (B,L)

Day 23: Fly to Siem Reap

Today is at leisure until your flight to Siem Reap, the gateway to the Temples of Angkor! (B,D)

Day 24: Temples of Angkor

See the world-famous Angkor temples from the back of a traditional tuk tuk - ride to Angkor Thom and the Bayon, before jungle-enveloped Ta Prohm. You'll then explore magnificent Angkor Wat, before sunset at Pre Rup. This evening is free, with an option to attend the Phare Cambodian Circus. (B,L)

Day 25: Siem Reap Experiences

Today you can decide to enjoy a free day or to take part in one of the following optional tours. Choose between 1) a full day amongst rural Cambodian communities, learning about their daily life, or 2) head into the dense forest close to Tonle Sap lake to explore the hidden temple of Beng Mealea. (B)

Day 26: Tonle Sap

High water season (Aug-Feb)
Cruise on the waters of Tonle Sap to visit the village of Kompong Kleang. A fully-fledged village of both floating and stilted houses, here you'll get a glimpse of real Cambodian village.

Low water season (Mar-Jul)

The village of Chong Khneas is a floating village right on the edge of the Tonle Sap where you can see locals going about their day to day lives on and by the water.

Both seasons include dinner with a traditional Apsara dance show this evening. (B,L,D)

Days 27-28: Fly Siem Reap to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the following day. (B)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
14 Apr - 11 May	£4,190	13 Oct - 09 Nov	£4,590
15 Sep - 12 Oct	£4,490	10 Nov - 07 Dec	£4,590
2019 DATES			
09 Feb - 08 Mar	£4,790	07 Sep - 04 Oct	£4,790
09 Mar - 05 Apr	£4,690	12 Oct - 08 Nov	£4,890
06 Apr - 03 May	£4,690	02 Nov - 29 Nov	£4,890

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,590 (Saigon - Siem Reap)
- Single room from £690
- Tipping paid locally US\$156

HIGHLIGHTS OF LAOS

Laos has remained the most pristine and culturally-intact country in Indochina. Experience the old-fashioned charm of the city, explore untouched landscapes and meet the incredibly friendly people, who have faced adversity and come out smiling.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

15 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £2,690

FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

12 BREAKFASTS, 11 LUNCHES, 9 DINNERS

MODERATE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Takbat Ceremony

In Luang Prabang, take part in a solemn alms-giving ceremony; placing rice in bowls held by passing monks, deep in meditation.



Plain of Jars

Laos' mysterious stone jars have baffled archaeologists for years – wander through them and come up with your own theory!



Kuang Si Waterfalls

With water cascading over layers of turquoise pools, you'll think you're walking through an aquatic fairyland at the Kuang Si falls.



Days 1-2: Fly to Bangkok

Fly overnight to the vibrant city of Bangkok. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. (D)

Day 3: Fly to Luang Prabang

Fly to Luang Prabang. On arrival you will have free time to start soaking up the local culture. An enchanting city, Luang Prabang is the quintessential image of Laos. At its core, lush greenery, golden temples and vivid-robed monks come together to create a colourful, rich heritage and an enduring French-colonial legacy.

Take a walking tour around the vibrant night market, keeping an eye out for craft souvenirs from Laos' hill tribes as you go. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Kuang Si Waterfalls

Rise early this morning to witness the Buddhist ceremony of Takbat, when the monks of Luang Prabang's monastic communities collect alms from locals. These lines of silent saffron robe-clad monks will be an enduring image of your trip. See Wat Sene and the National Museum. Visit the traditional H'mong village of Ban Na Ounae, before walking to the cascading turquoise waters of Kuang Si Waterfalls for a picnic lunch and a swim. Stop at Ock Pop Tok Weaving Centre on the return to Luang Prabang. (B,L)

Day 5: Mekong River Cruise

Explore Wat Xieng Thong, considered Luang Prabang's most beautiful temple. Board a boat to cruise the mighty Mekong up to the sacred caves of Pak Ou, known for the hundreds of miniature Buddha sculptures that reside within. Visit the local villages of Thin Hong and Ban Xang Khong to witness the daily life of the local people and their cottage industries. (B,L)

Day 6: Phousi Hill

Climb Phousi Hill to admire the views down over the city before exploring Wat Mai, Wat Visoun

and Wat Aham. Browse the wares at the lively hill tribe market before a free afternoon. (B,L)

Day 7: Phonsavan

Drive to Phonsavan via Phoukhoun, stopping at Tham Phra Cave and Nong Tang Lake on the way. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Plain of Jars

One of the most important prehistoric sites in Southeast Asia, these mysterious clusters of giant jars are thought to be about 2,000 years old. We will visit Site 1 where there are over 200 jars, Site 2 which also allows you to admire the beautiful scenery of the region and Site 3, situated in picturesque woodland. There will also be a visit to the office of the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), an organisation that helps clear unexploded ordnance that are a remnant of American raids during the Vietnam War. Take the opportunity to speak with the organisation's head. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Vang Vieng

Depart Phonsavan for Vang Vieng. Stop en route at Pathang village, where you can enjoy dramatic views over the karst landscapes for which Vang Vieng is famous. On arrival, head into Tham Chang Cave to explore. The cave was used as a hideout for locals when marauding Yunnanese came to town in the early 19th century. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Discover Vientiane

Drive to Vientiane, Laos' capital. Nestled in

a languid bend in the Mekong, Vientiane is a delightfully quaint city, more friendly backwater than chaotic capital. Spend the rest of the day exploring with visits to Wat Si Saket, Wat Phra Keo, That Luang Stupa, and the Patuxai Victory Monument, that resembles Paris' Arc de Triomphe. (B,L)

Day 11: Si Phan Don

Rise early for a morning flight to Pakse. On arrival, explore the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Wat Phou, a ruined Khmer temple complex set in the beautiful landscapes of Mount Phu Kao. Drive on to Khong Island, the largest island of the laidback Si Phan Don archipelago in the Mekong River. The rest of the day is free. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Khong Island

Around Si Phan Don, meaning '4,000 islands', the pace of life is slow and easy and the river views are gorgeous. See the magnificent Khone Phapheng Waterfall, Southeast Asia's largest, and pop over to Khone Island by speedboat to discover its charming colonial buildings and see Liphir Waterfall, nicknamed the Devil's Corridor. Depending on the season, you may see traditional fishing techniques in action. The rest of the day is free. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Bolaven Plateau

Depart Khong Island for Pakse, stopping en route to admire Tad Yuang and Tad Fane waterfalls. Continue up onto the Bolaven

Plateau to pay a visit to a coffee plantation and learn about the process of planting, harvesting and roasting the beans. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner back in Pakse. (B,L,D)

Days 14-15: Fly Pakse to UK

Fly from Pakse to Bangkok where you'll have the use of a hotel room before your evening flight back to the UK, arriving home the following day. (B,D)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES

20 Mar - 03 Apr £2,790 16 Oct - 30 Oct £2,690

2019 DATES

19 Mar - 02 Apr £2,990 15 Oct - 29 Oct £2,990

Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- UK airport chauffeur transfers
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Excludes Laos visa (bought locally)

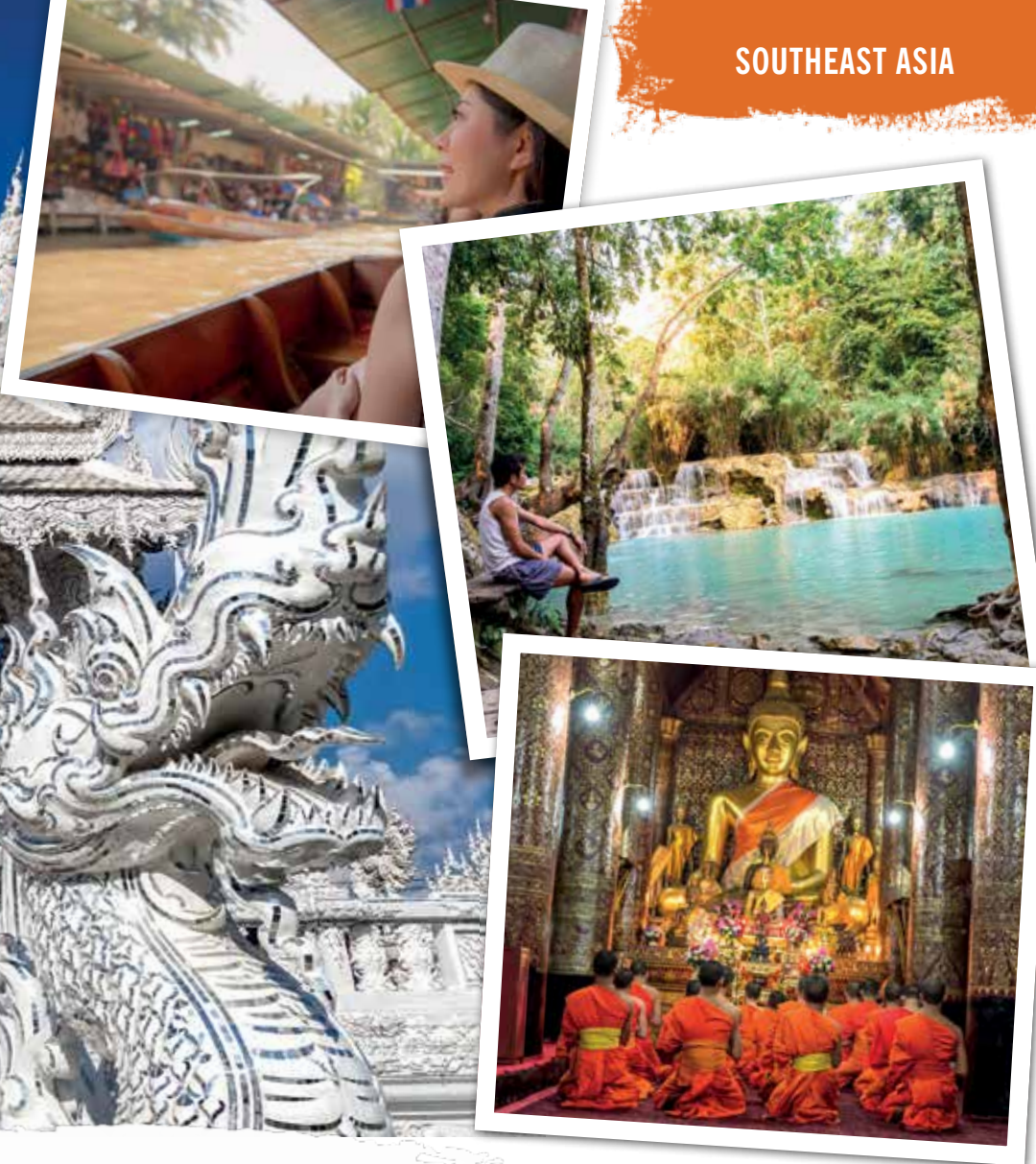
Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,190 (Bangkok - Bangkok)
- Single room from £380
- Tipping paid locally US\$91

THAILAND & LAOS ADVENTURE

Perfectly combined to create an unforgettable experience, venture off the beaten track to discover the colourful hilltribe cultures of Thailand's northern highlands and explore the tranquil treasures and rich culture of beautiful Laos.



16 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £2,790 FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK ALL MEALS - 13 BREAKFASTS, 12 LUNCHES, 13 DINNERS MODERATE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Hilltribe stay

Spend the night in the H'mong Hill Tribe Lodge amongst spectacular scenery and share traditions with the local H'mong tribe members.



Mekong into Laos

Drift gentle down the Mekong in Laos in a local wooden boat, observing life on the riverbanks and stopping to visit rural communities en route.



Takbat ceremony

Witness the dawn ceremony of Takbat, a Buddhist tradition in which all of the monks from the local monasteries receive alms from the local people.



- Days 1-2: Fly to Bangkok**
Fly to the vibrant city of Bangkok. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. (D)
- Day 3: Discover Bangkok**
Bangkok is an exotic assault on the senses, a whirlwind of chaos, refinement and rewarding sights. A city of many faces, go from tranquil golden temples to forests of gleaming skyscrapers before experiencing authentic Asia on bustling streets. Today's sightseeing includes Wat Pho and the dazzling Grand Palace. Take to the Chao Phraya River on a

- longboat getting an alternative view of the city as you travel to the Pak Klong Talaat Flower Market, then stroll through Chinatown. This evening enjoy a Thai dinner whilst watching a traditional music and dance show. (B,L,D)
- Day 4: Floating Market**
Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market and experience the Mae Klong railway market. Board an overnight train to Chiang Mai. (B,L,D)
- Day 5: Explore Chiang Mai**
The antithesis of Bangkok, Chiang Mai is a chilled out, nonchalant city in the foothills of Thailand's northern highlands. Take a cyclo tour of the city, visit Flok Life Museum, admire Wat Chedi Luang and ascend to Wat Doi Suthep perched on top of Doi Suthep Mountain. This evening enjoy a traditional Kantoke dinner and a performance of the ancient songs and dances of northern Thailand and wander through the buzzing night bazaar in search of bargains. (B,L,D)
- Day 6: H'mong Hilltribe Lodge**
Start the day with a relaxed mind as you join a group meditation session before heading up into the Suthep-Pui Mountains. Tonight you will spend the night at the H'mong Hilltribe Lodge amidst the striking natural beauty of the

- region. This evening enjoy a barbecue dinner and a cultural show. (B,L,D)
- Day 7: Thai Elephant Care Centre**
Depart the Hilltribe Lodge for the Thai Elephant Care Centre to spend some time meeting and feeding the beautiful pachyderms. Later, board a long tail boat on Mae Kok River to Baan Pha Tai, where you'll continue by road to Chiang Rai. Explore the colourful night market. (B,L,D)
- Day 8: Chiang Rai**
Explore the laidback, small town charm of Chiang Rai, visiting the eccentric White Temple and Doi Mae Salong, a hill village once at the heart of the area's notorious opium trade. (B,L,D)
- Day 9: Cruise the Mekong**
Transfer to the Thai-Laos border and climb aboard a boat to cruise along the Mekong taking in the scenery as you go. Stop at Pakbeng with time to visit the village of Ban Houei Lumpne before settling in for the night. (B,L,D)
- Day 10: Cruise to Luang Prabang**
Back on the river, continue your leisurely cruise down to the beautiful city of Luang Prabang, stopping at the fascinating Pak Ou Caves, a riverside cavern that is full of statues of Buddha that can no longer be used for worship. (B,L,D)
- Day 11: Explore Luang Prabang**
An enchanting city, Luang Prabang is the

- quintessential image of Laos – a place of vivid colours with an extremely rich heritage and enduring French legacy. Take a city tour, seeing sights including Wat Visoun and Wat Xieng Thong. After lunch, visit Ban Xang Khong craft village and spend some time at a local wat, chatting with the friendly monks who love to practice their English. (B,L,D)
- Day 12: Kuang Si Waterfall**
Rise early this morning to witness the Buddhist ceremony of Takbat, when the monks of Luang Prabang's monastic communities collect alms from locals. These lines of silent saffron robe-clad monks will be an enduring image of your trip. After breakfast, ascend Phousi Hill for panoramic views over the town and see the treasures at the National Museum. Head out of the town to enjoy the cascading turquoise waters of the enchanting Kuang Si Waterfalls before returning to Luang Prabang via Ock Pop Tok Weaving Centre. (B,L,D)
- Day 13: Fly to Vientiane**
Fly to Laos' capital city, Vientiane. (B,L,D)
- Day 14: Discover Vientiane**
Nestled in a sleepy bend of the Mekong, Vientiane is a delightfully quaint city, more a friendly backwater than a chaotic capital. Spend the day exploring with a visit to Talaat Sao market, Wat Si Saket, Wat Phra Keo (a former temple that now houses a museum),

That Luang Stupa, and the Patuxai Victory Monument, known as the Arc de Triomphe of Vientiane. Finally, explore the magical Buddha Park. Later, enjoy dinner and a traditional Laos music and dance performance. (B,L,D)

Days 15-16: Fly Vientiane to UK
Enjoy a free morning in Vientiane making the most of the languid pace of life. Fly back to UK via Bangkok, arriving the following day. (B)

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES		2019 DATES	
13 Mar - 28 Mar	£2,790	16 Oct - 31 Oct	£2,790
12 Mar - 27 Mar	£2,890	15 Oct - 30 Oct	£2,890

Price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Excludes Laos visa (bought locally)

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,290 (Bangkok - Vientiane)
- Single room from £420
- Tipping paid locally US\$70

NEW

BURMA DISCOVERY

A land of dazzling pagodas, crumbling temples and age-old customs, this immersive tour delves deep into the magic and mystery of Burma. You'll explore cultural treasures, try your hand at traditional crafts and meet some of the country's diverse local people.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

15 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON

£3,490



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK



13 BREAKFASTS, 12 LUNCHES, 5 DINNERS



ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Bagan by bike

Cycle amongst Bagan's incredible temples – gliding along, you'll get the perfect view of the multitude of structures, and better soak up the atmosphere.



Shan highlands

Explore the beauty of the Shan highlands on foot, passing through villages where you'll get a warm welcome from the local communities.



Intha cooking class

Inle Lake is home to the Intha people, and whilst here you will visit a traditional Intha house and take part in a cooking class.



Days 1-2: Fly to Rangoon

Fly overnight to the vibrant city of Rangoon. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 3: Discover Rangoon

Start the day exploring the atmospheric Shwedagon Pagoda. Burma's most sacred Buddhist site, it is said to have four relics of Buddha enshrined within. Continue to browse the exhibits of the National Museum before taking a ride on the Yangon Circle Train, the authentic, local way to see the city. Learn

about national hero, Aung San, at a museum housed in his former home before heading into downtown Rangoon to stroll through the street markets and crumbling colonial architecture. End the day with a cocktail at the Strand Hotel – built in 1901 it is still one of the city's grandest hotels. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Temples of Bagan

This morning, board a plane for the short hop to Bagan. Your first experience of the area's glorious temples will be Ananda. Built in 1091, this temple has been in constant use ever since and exudes a wonderful atmosphere. Take to the waters of the Irrawaddy and cruise to Kyun Thiri village, where you'll visit the monastery for tea and snacks. Returning to Bagan, visit a lacquer ware shop before taking a horse and cart ride among the temples. Dinner tonight includes a cultural show. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Mt Popa

Travel to Mt Popa, an extinct volcano rising out of the Myingyan Plain, where you'll ascend a volcanic plug to visit the temple on its summit. The views from the top are incredible! Returning to Bagan, stop at a toddy palm plantation to learn about this family enterprise. Later, cycle to the secluded Kauk Gyu cave

temple to examine the exquisite stone carvings. (B,L)

Day 6: Mahamuni Buddha

Fly to Mandalay. Get to grips with the traditional industry of goldbeating on a visit to a gold-leaf hammering shop, before visiting the Mahamuni Buddha, one of the most revered Buddha images in the country. It's also the perfect place to see where what happens to all that hammered gold! Continue to magnificent teakwood Shwenandaw monastery and Kuthodaw pagoda, home to the world's largest book. Take a relaxed cruise down the Irrawaddy to the monumental Mingun Pagoda, which dominates the river bank. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Sagaing and Inwa

Today begins at a nunnery nestled in the Sagaing Hills, before a short boat trip over to Inwa, the ancient imperial capital set on an island. A horse and cart will take you around the sights. Next, walk with the locals over U Bein Bridge, the world's longest teak bridge – the setting is beautiful. Finally, sit back and enjoy a sunset cruise on Lake Tautaman, with cocktails on hand. (B,L)

Day 8: Pindaya Caves

Fly to Heho, in the Shan highlands, and transfer to Pindaya to discover the Shwe U Min limestone caves, a famous Buddhist pilgrimage site. Later, visit the skilled artisans who

make Burma's iconic paper umbrellas in their workshop. The umbrellas are still made solely by hand in many beautiful shades. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Trekking in Pindaya

Set out on foot to explore the landscapes of the Shan Highlands. Wander through a tea plantation and pass through villages where you'll be able to see local communities going about their daily lives. This afternoon, transfer to Inle Lake. The lake is best known for the extraordinary Intha people, who live on and around the water, and are renowned for their unique rowing technique. (B,L)

Day 10: Explore Inle Lake

Discover the overgrown forest of stupas and pagodas at Indein, before taking to the waters of Inle Lake to explore. You'll float through still villages, stopping at the workshops of local industry – silk weaving, silver-smithing and cheroot making. Stop to look at the resourceful floating gardens and keep an eye out for fishermen going about their business in Inle's unique style. (B,L)

Day 11: Visit an Intha House

Enjoy a morning walk through a local market before visiting an Intha house for a cooking class with a local chef. You'll get to enjoy the dishes you create for lunch. This afternoon see Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the temple at the heart of the lake community, then head onto dry land to take a tuk tuk to the Red Mountain winery. Here, you'll have a tour of this wine making facility including a tasting. (B,L)

Day 12: Visit Local People

Take a boat to reach the city of Loikaw, a place that offers a glimpse of wonderfully authentic Burma, due to the fact it was off-limits to travellers for many years. Make stops en route at local villages to see pottery makers and rice wine producers as well as the picturesque partially submerged pagodas at Sagar. Leave the boat at Pe Khone, in an area where Shan, Pa O and Intha ethnic groups make their homes, and transfer to Loikaw by road. (B,L)

Day 13: Explore Loikaw

Visit more of Burma's ethnic minority groups in Pan Pat village, home to the Kayah Padaung people. The women of this group are famous for elongating their necks by wearing bronze rings – they are one of Burma's most iconic images. Back in Loikaw, visit the Kayah State Cultural Museum and a colonial house from 1912 which was used by the Shan royal family, and Taung Kwe pagoda. (B,L)

Day 14: Return to Rangoon

Transfer to the airport and fly back to Rangoon. There will be time to visit Bogyoke market to pick up a few more souvenirs and, time permitting, Botataung pagoda and Nanthida jetty. A farewell meal this evening will be at The House of Memories. In the building where General Aung San once had his office, the restaurant is filled with fascinating old mementoes. (B,L,D)

Day 15: Fly Rangoon to UK

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

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
03 Mar - 17 Mar	£3,490	10 Nov - 24 Nov	£3,690
20 Oct - 03 Nov	£3,590		
2019 DATES			
26 Jan - 09 Feb	£3,890	12 Oct - 26 Oct	£3,890
23 Feb - 09 Mar	£3,890	09 Nov - 23 Nov	£3,990

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,890 (Rangoon - Rangoon)
- Single room from £620
- Tipping paid locally US\$86

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

OUR TOP TEN INDIAN SUBCONTINENT ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES

1 CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK SAFARI

Jump into a jeep to discover a jungle of towering trees and twisting vines, of pre-historic rhinos and magnificent elephants, brilliantly coloured birds and if you are very lucky - the elusive Royal Bengal Tiger.



2 HIKE TO TIGER'S NEST

Perched precariously above Bhutan's Paro Valley, the Tiger's Nest Monastery can only be reached on foot. Walk with pilgrims through tranquil woodland and spinning prayer wheels whilst admiring the views as you go.



3 LAMA BLESSING

Boudhanath stands tall above Kathmandu's skyline – it is Nepal's most sacred stupa. Admire it, and the views from it, and explore its monastery where you will be honoured with a blessing by one of the resident Lamas.



4 RICKSHAW TOUR OF AGRA

Ride a rickshaw through the streets of Agra passing by old bazaars, traditional eating joints and places of worship. You'll get a real feel for this melting pot of a city, with its multi-cultural influences.



5 RAJASTHAN BY BULLOCK CART

Explore pastoral landscapes around Bijaynagar in true rural style – by bullock cart! Pass through villages where you can meet the locals.



6 CYCLE UDAIPUR

Hop on a bike and cycle amongst the intricate palaces, temples and back streets of this atmospheric city. Finish by the water and take a spectacular sunset cruise.



9 KHECHEOPALRI LAKE

Sacred to people of both the Buddhist and Hindu faiths, Khecheopalri Lake is believed to fulfill wishes. Set amongst beautiful scenery, the area is also known for its biodiversity - walk with the pilgrims on their kora.



7 HIKING IN POKHARA

Follow trails through rural villages and coffee plantations to a vantage point for breathtaking views over shimmering Phewa Lake and the surrounding valleys.



8 YAK BURGERS, LHASA

Sit down to a meal of delicious yak burgers (they taste like beef ones) and celebrate this incredible, shaggy beast.



10 NEPALI COOKING CLASS

Take a cooking class to learn the traditional techniques and flavors of Nepalese cuisine before sitting down to enjoy what you have prepared.



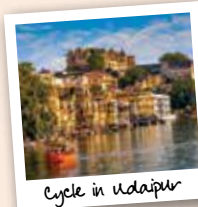
VIBRANT INDIA

Explore the colourful and lively Rajasthan state; from the big cities to the small, remote villages. Your imagination will be captured with the sights and sounds as you engage with the people that make this such a magical region of India.



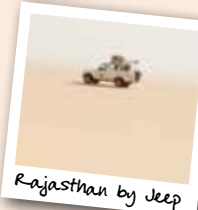
16 DAYS FROM **PER PERSON £2,990** **FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK** **14 BREAKFASTS, 12 LUNCHES, 10 DINNERS** **MODERATE**

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



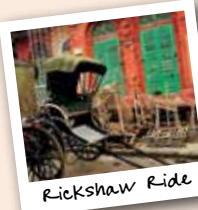
Cycle in Udaipur

Cycle through the back streets of the Old City, passing by temples and bazaars, then finish at iconic Lake Pichola for a sunset cruise.



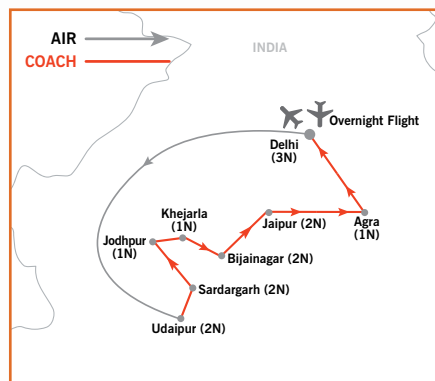
Rajasthan by Jeep

Take a jeep safari through the village and desert landscapes of Rajasthan, stopping en route at colourful local villages.



Rickshaw Ride

Take a rickshaw through colourful Delhi, finishing with lunch at the exciting Chor Bazaar; a menagerie of busy trading.



Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi

Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 3: Cycling in Udaipur

Fly to Udaipur, considered India's most romantic city thanks to its grand palaces and lakeside setting. This afternoon climb on to your bicycle and take a leisurely ride through the backstreets of the old city. Pass through Jagdish Chowk, followed by Jagdish Temple and wend through Bada Bazaar. Finally, peddle

along the banks of Lake Pichola to finish at the Tripolia Gate of the City Palace, where you will board a boat for a sunset cruise which includes a stop at the 17th-century Lake Garden Palace. (B,D)

Day 4: Explore the City Palace

Delve deeper into the cultural wonders of Udaipur starting at the spectacular City Palace. Started in 1599, over the years many a maharani has added his bit, making this Rajasthan's largest palace. Within you'll find the Dilkush Mahal, the Sheesh Mahal, the Moti Mahal and the Palace of Lord Krishna, each boasting exquisite and ornate decoration. Drive around Fateh Sagar Lake then, later, journey to Shilpgram to visit a rural arts and crafts village – here you can learn about the tribal people of India's western regions and see their traditional architecture, crafts and rural lifestyle. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Temples of Ranakpur

Travel from Udaipur to Sardargarh, stopping at the magnificent Jain temples of Ranakpur en route. Built in the 15th century, these marble temples feature some of India's most beautiful carvings and are a major pilgrimage for followers of the Jain religion. Sardargarh sits in the shadow of its majestic hill fort which will

also be your home for the next two nights. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Jeep Safari around Sardargarh

Take a tour of the historical fort before climbing aboard the heritage train to ride through Aravali mountains. This afternoon take a jeep to travel out to the remote villages around Sardargarh. Meet with the local villagers, see life in a rural Rajasthani village and visit a local marble cutter. Enjoy the sunset by the lake. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Jodhpur

Drive from Sardargarh to Jodhpur, on arrival the rest of the day will be yours to spend as you wish. (B,L)

Day 8: Mehrangarh Fort

Sat high above the city on a sandstone plinth, the Mehrangarh Fort is one of Rajasthan's most impressive sights – spend the morning strolling through its palaces, temples and gardens and examining the displays of its museum. Afterwards visit Jaswant Thada. Later, drive out to 400-year-old Khejarla Fort, a striking red sandstone building that is a magnificent example of Rajput architecture, where you will spend the night amongst its blend of art and architecture. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Desert Jeep Safari

Today's jeep safari will introduce you to the

customs and culture of the rural villages of Rajasthan, as well as the villagers themselves, particularly the wonderfully hospitable Marwari people. Visit a fabric workshop and see the craftsmen at work. Drive to Bijainagar and check into your heritage hotel packed with original features, art and antiques. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Rural Rajasthan by Bullock Cart

After breakfast climb aboard a bullock cart for a leisurely guided tour of the rural villages around Bijainagar. Take the opportunity to interact with the friendly villagers and catch them going about their daily lives, as well as seeing their homes, a school and a temple. Return to Bijainagar for a cooking class, learning about local cuisine and enjoying a delicious lunch. Later witness the sunset over the lake as you take High Tea on the shore. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Jaipur

Journey from Bijainagar to Jaipur before enjoying a free afternoon. (B,L)

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Day 12: Amber Fort by Jeep

Enjoy an early morning yoga session. Head just out of the city to the colossal Amber Fort, stopping en route to admire the exquisite façade of Hawa Mahal, or 'Palace of the Winds'. The Amber Fort is built of yellow and pink sandstone and white marble, its opulent courtyards, halls and apartments are full of intricate carvings and stained glass. This afternoon explore the City Palace, part of which is still home to Jaipur's royal family. Visit a gem cutting and polishing workshop, something for which Jaipur is famous. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Agra Rickshaw Tour

Travel from Jaipur to Agra, stopping en route at Fatehpur Sikri. Built in the 16th century as the Mughal capital of Emperor Akbar, the city is a fusion of Muslim and Hindu styles, and one of India's best preserved examples of Mughal architecture. Arrive in Agra and take to the streets in an auto rickshaw that will introduce you to the sights and sounds of the city. (B,L,D)

Day 14: The Taj Mahal

Tour the city coming first to India's most iconic sight, the Taj Mahal. A monument to love built for Mumtaz Mahal, the favourite wife of Shah Jahan, the Taj Mahal is built entirely of white marble. From a distance the effect is ethereal but get up close and you can admire the intricate pietra dura (stone inlay) work. Come next to the mammoth Agra Fort, the imperial city of the Mughal rulers. Within there are palaces, audience halls and mosques to discover. Return to Delhi. (B,L)

Day 15: Rickshaw Ride through Old Delhi

Take a full day to explore Delhi. Starting in Old Delhi, embark on a rickshaw ride through the atmospheric streets, visiting Jama Masjid. Venture into a local market where you will learn about the local herbs and spices. Cross into New Delhi to view the colonial grandeur of the Rajpath, including the Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate, finishing the day at Humayun's Tomb. (B,L,D)

Day 16: Depart Delhi

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

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
16 Mar - 31 Mar	£2,990	12 Oct - 27 Oct	£2,990
2019 DATES			
15 Mar - 30 Mar	£3,290	11 Oct - 26 Oct	£3,290

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,490 (Delhi - Delhi)
- Single room from £690
- Tipping paid locally USD\$85

NEW

NEPAL UNCOVERED

Set in one of the world's most magnificent locations, Nepal is a land of richness and diversity. Explore under the gaze of Himalayan peaks, discovering the heritage of the Kathmandu Valley, the wildlife of Chitwan and hiking amongst the beauty of Pokhara.

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

12 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON

£2,990



FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK



10 BREAKFASTS, 7 LUNCHES, 9 DINNERS



ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



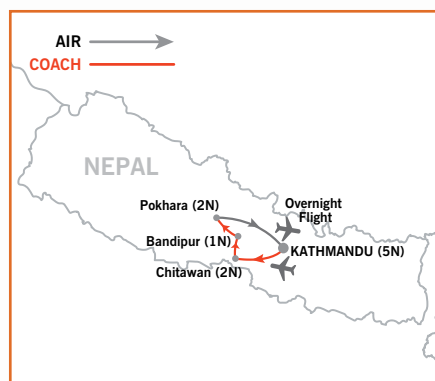
Visit Kathmandu's most sacred stupa, where you'll explore the monastery and be honoured with a blessing from one of the resident lamas.



Relive scenes from the Jungle Book as you meet the elephants and the myriad of other wildlife from Nepal's beautiful Terai region.



Hike to an ethnic minority village set high above Lake Phewa to meet the locals residents and even see inside a traditional house.



Days 1-2: Fly to Nepal

Fly overnight to Kathmandu, Nepal's vibrant capital city. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. (D)

Day 3: Explore 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 the ancient, hilltop Swayambhunath Temple and the sublime medieval architecture of Durbar Square, before

a rickshaw ride through the chaotic streets through Indra Chowk and Ason Tole to the tourist district of Thamel. Head to Boudhnath Stupa and Monastery for a very special Lama blessing before finishing the day at the sacred Hindu temple of Pashupatinath. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Nepali Cooking Class

Essentially a suburb of Kathmandu, Patan was once the capital of an independent kingdom, something that is noticeable in its distinctiveness. Take a walking tour through the heritage architecture of its Durbar Square and admire the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Royal Palace. Enjoy a cooking class, where you can learn to prepare several Nepali dishes and dine on what you've made for lunch. The afternoon is at leisure. (B,L)

Day 5: Manakamana Temple

Leave Kathmandu for Chitwan, stopping en route at the temple of Manakamana. Soar up the steep hillside in a cable car to reach this tiered pagoda, and enjoy the breathtaking Himalayan views. Continue on to Chitwan National Park, one of Asia's richest and most spectacular national parks. On arrival, check into your jungle lodge and spend the rest of the day taking part in activities. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Chitwan National Park

Spend the day continuing your explorations of the incredible beauty and diversity of Chitwan National Park with the help of activities such as jeep safaris, canoe rides, village walks and jungle walks. There will be a break for lunch at the lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Travel to Bandipur

Drive from Chitwan to Bandipur, a hill station and ancient trading post. It is a prime example of a Newari mountain town – untouched by modernisation, it is full of old houses and temples from the medieval era, as well as being in a region rich with cultural diversity. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to begin exploring. (B,D)

Day 8: Thani Mai hike

Rise early to transfer to Thani Mai (Old Fort), which sits on top of Gurungche Hill and hike up the hill for glorious views of the surrounding landscapes, with the Himalayas on the horizon at sunrise. Return to the hotel for breakfast before departing for Pokhara. The town sits on the verdant banks of Lake Phewa with virtually uninterrupted views of the majestic Annapurna and Manaslu ranges. On arrival, the rest of the day will be at leisure. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Hiking in Pokhara

Drive to Khade Khola from where you'll head out on foot into the beautiful landscapes that surround Pokhara. The area is occupied by ethnic minority groups such as Gurungs, Brahmins and Dalits and you'll hike to a local village set high up the valley with magnificent views of the mountains, Lake Phewa and the valley as a whole. Here you will get to meet the friendly villagers and visit the local school and coffee farm – a glimpse at life in rural Nepal. Return to Pokhara. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Fly to Kathmandu

Transfer to the airport to fly back to Kathmandu. On arrival, the rest of the day is free to spend as you wish. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Explore Bhaktapur

The third and final of the Kathmandu Valley's medieval city states (along with Kathmandu and Patan), Bhaktapur is considered the best preserved and most atmospheric. On arrival, visit the home of a Newari family – enjoy a traditional welcome, learn about the Newari's way of life, their culture and traditions, and tour the house. Wander Bhaktapur's cobbled streets to the magnificent Durbar Square and admire the Golden Gate and the Palace of 55 Windows. Finally, head into the heart of

Bhaktapur's ceramics industry, to Potters' Square to visit a pottery workshop. Learn traditional pottery skills from a master potter and take home your creation. This evening, enjoy a Nepali farewell dinner and cultural show. (B,D)

Day 12: Fly Kathmandu to UK

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

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
24 Sep - 05 Oct	£2,990	08 Oct - 19 Oct	£2,990
2019 DATES			
23 Sep - 04 Oct	£3,290	07 Oct - 18 Oct	£3,290

Price includes:

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,390 (Kathmandu - Kathmandu)
- Single room from £590
- Tipping paid locally US\$80

HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE

Embark on a journey of extremes, striking across the starkly beautiful landscapes of Tibet, on the roof of the world. Then discover the verdant and chaotic valleys of Nepal under the ever watchful gaze of the mighty Himalayas.

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Pokhara's traditional bazaar, Bindyabasini Temple, Gupteshwor Cave and Devi's Fall. Spend the afternoon wandering the Mountain Museum. (B,L,D)

■ **Days 16-17: Chitwan National Park**
Admire the sunrise before departing for Chitwan National Park. A jungle safari delivers you to the Terai, or plains region. Tomorrow, take an early morning nature walk, and visit the elephant stables. Later, enjoy a serene trip down the Rapti River to view the animals on the river banks. Observe an elephant bath and this evening enjoy a traditional Tharu Stick dance performed by local farmers. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 18: Daman**
Drive to Daman which has one of the most spectacular outlooks over the Himalayan range of anywhere in Nepal. Continue on to Kathmandu. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 19: Lama Blessing**
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 Monastery for a very special Lama blessing. Continue to Pashupatinath Temple. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 20: Swayambhunath**
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. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 21: Fly Kathmandu to UK**
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

21 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £4,490 FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK ALL MEALS - 19 BREAKFASTS, 18 LUNCHES, 19 DINNERS ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



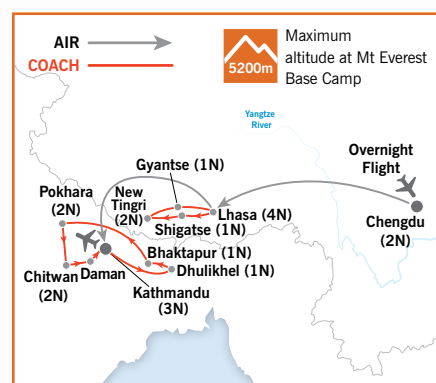
Hike to the legendary Base Camp used by Everest hikers and sherpas, and take in a truly once-in-a-lifetime, epic view.



Relive scenes from the Jungle Book as you meet the elephants and the myriad of other wildlife from Nepal's beautiful plains region.



A wander through intoxicating Kathmandu reveals a heady mix of medieval temples, atmospheric alleyways and markets selling wares from all over Nepal.



ITINERARY

■ **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. (D)

■ **Day 3: Giant Pandas**
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. Stroll through People's Park and see Matchmaker's Corner, and visit a traditional tea house. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 4: Lhasa**
Fly to Lhasa and acclimatise. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 5: Debating Monks**
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 to witness the debating monks. This evening, try yak burgers for dinner. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 6: The Potala Palace**
The Potala Palace is an architectural wonder towering over the city. The former winter palace of the Dalai Lama, it houses thousands of rooms filled with old treasures. This evening enjoy a traditional Tibetan dance performance. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 7: Shigatse**
Travel across Tibet's stark plains to Shigatse, Tibet's second city and the traditional home of the Panchen Lama. Take a stroll through the local market and browse the wares on sale. (B,L,D)

■ **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. (B,L,D)

■ **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. Visit the world's highest post office, then 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). (B,L,D)

■ **Day 10: Gyantse Kumbum**
Drive to the pleasant town of Gyantse and visit the famous kumbum. This fascinating monastery is home to the largest chörten in Tibet – climb it for a secession of colourful mural-filled chapels and wonderful views. Stay overnight in the town. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 11: Yamdrok Lake**
Drive back to Lhasa, making a stop to admire the colossal Karuola Glacier, stretching down the side of Mount Simila towards the road; and a stop to admire the breathtaking blue of the sacred Yamdrok Lake, backed by the snowy peaks of the Himalayas. Overnight in Lhasa. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 12: Into Nepal**
Fly to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. Meet your Nepalese guide and transfer to Dhulikhel to see the traditional Nuwari houses and browse the local market. (B,L,D)

■ **Day 13: Bhaktapur**
Visit Changu Narayan Temple before taking a hike to Telkot through the forest landscapes, admiring the stunning Himalayan scenery. Drive to Bhaktapur and visit the Old Houses before enjoying a traditional Nepalese lunch. This afternoon wander Bhaktapur's cobblestone streets where you'll stumble across many old courtyards, temples and artisans busy at their craft. Visit the Golden Gate and the Palace of 55 Windows on Durbar Square. (B,L,D)

■ **Days 14-15: Pokhara**
Fly to Pokhara. The town sits on the verdant banks of Phewa Lake with virtually uninterrupted views of the majestic Annapurna and Manaslu ranges. Take a walking tour, admiring the views. The next day, explore

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
08 May - 28 May	£4,490	02 Oct - 22 Oct	£4,590
2019 DATES			
07 May - 27 May	£4,890	01 Oct - 21 Oct	£4,990

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

Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,790 (Chengdu - Kathmandu)
- Single room from £740
- Tipping paid locally RMB 540 (China) & US\$70 (Nepal)

HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS

High amongst lofty mountains, embark on an incredible journey through the breathtaking Indian state of Sikkim and the magical kingdom of Bhutan, a lesser known but truly spectacular section of the Himalayas.

INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

Day 18: Rural Bhutan

Leave Gangtey for Punakha visiting the Black Necked Crane Information Centre en route. On arrival visit Punakha Dzong before hiking through the paddy fields and local villages to Chimi Lhakhang, also known as the temple of fertility.

Day 19: Discover Punakha

This morning visit the magnificent temple complex at Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang nunnery. Later appreciate the incredible views from Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten which is said to have been built to promote peace, stability and harmony in the changing world.

Day 20: Travel to Paro

Drive to Paro, stopping en route at the Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress of the Kingdom. Paro is surrounded by some of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries, visit Ta Dzong and Rinpung Dzong.

Day 21: Tiger's Nest Monastery

Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) is Bhutan's most famous monastery, perched on the side of a cliff 900 metres above the Paro Valley. It can only be reached by a moderately challenging hike along a woodland trail – the views along the way are the perfect distraction! Returning to Paro, visit Kyichu Lhakhang.

Day 22: Haa Valley

Rise early and take a day trip to Haa Valley, stopping en route to admire the views. Enjoy a picnic lunch and explore the lush green valley, visiting the white and black temples before returning to Paro for the night.

Day 23: Fly to Kolkata

Rise early to fly back to Kolkata, where you'll have the afternoon at leisure.

Day 24: Fly Kolkata to UK

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

24 DAYS FROM PER PERSON £5,190 FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK ALL MEALS - 22 BREAKFASTS, 21 LUNCHESS, 22 DINNERS ACTIVE

ORIGINAL EXPERIENCES



Tiger's Nest

Bhutan's most breathtaking monastery, hike through picturesque landscapes to reach the famous Tiger's Nest, 900 metres above the Paro Valley.



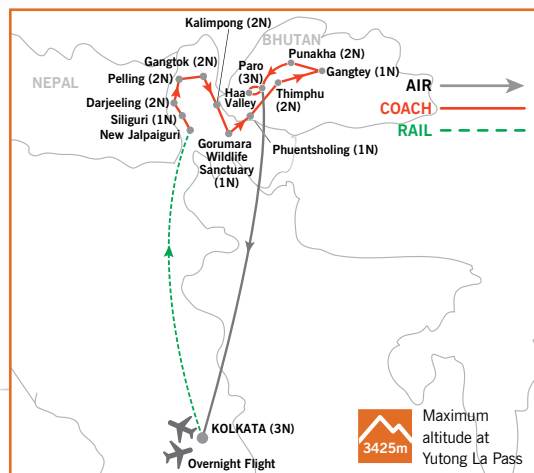
Toy Train

Winding its way through the tea plantations between Ghoom and Darjeeling, the Himalayan Railway, or 'Toy Train' is a wonderful experience.



Khecheopalri Lake

Admire the fantastic scenery around the holy Khecheopalri Lake as you join Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims as they make their way around the sacred kora.



Days 1-2: Fly to Kolkata

Fly overnight to Kolkata. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 3: Explore Kolkata

Enjoy a relaxed morning before venturing out for an afternoon tour with visits to the magnificent Victoria Memorial and Kalighat Temple – you'll also see Fort William.

Day 4: Train to New Jalpaiguri

Get up early to visit a fragrant flower market and view the cantilever Howrah Bridge. Stop by Kumhartuli, the artisan colony and see a Jain temple. Later board a train to New Jalpaiguri before driving to Siliguri to spend the night.

Day 5: Drive to Darjeeling

Head out of Siliguri through endless tea plantations to the famous hill station of Darjeeling, which is located at a cool 2,134 metres.

Day 6: Explore Darjeeling

Rise before the sun to catch it rising over Mt Kanchenjunga from Tiger Hill, which you'll reach by jeep. On the way back to Darjeeling visit Yiga Choling Monastery. Later, all aboard the famous 'Toy Train' which winds its way through the lush green hills and plantations before enjoying the Himalaya Mountaineering Institute.

Day 7: Into Sikkim

Drive north to Pelling, crossing into the state of Sikkim. Pop into Pemayangtse Monastery, one of Sikkim's oldest, where you can find tranquillity along with amazing views.

Day 8: Khecheopalri Lake

Visit the spectacular Khecheopalri Lake, considered sacred by both Buddhists and Hindus, and the magnificent Kanchenjunga Falls.

Days 9-10: Discover Gangtok

Drive through more spectacular scenery to Sikkim's vibrant capital Gangtok, stopping at 18th-century Tashiding Monastery en route. There is nowhere better to enjoy exotic flowers and mountain panoramas. The next day visit the Enchey Monastery, the Sikkim Research Institute of Technology.

Day 11: Rumtek Monastery

Begin the day at Dharma Chakra Centre and old Rumtek Monastery, before hitting the road to the bustling bazaar town of Kalimpong.

Day 12: Kalimpong at Leisure

Take a day to catch your breath and enjoy some leisurely explorations of Kalimpong – there are plenty of spots to enjoy Himalayan panoramas and also flower nurseries full of local orchids.

Day 13: Gorumara Wildlife Sanctuary

Take a jeep safari into the depths of Gorumara Wildlife Sanctuary, where you might be lucky enough to spot a one-horned rhino, elephants, leopards and bison.

Day 14: Into Bhutan

Cross into Bhutan and continue to Phuentsholing. Later visit the Zangtho Pelri Lhakhang Temple in the centre of the town.

Days 15-16: Discover Thimphu

Hit the national highway to Bhutan's capital Thimphu, stopping en route at Kharbandi Gompa, a Tibetan Buddhist monastery. The next day, explore the city with time at the National Library, Institute for Zorig Chusum, the Handicrafts Emporium and Folk Heritage Museum, Textile Museum and Trashi Chhoe Dzong.

Day 17: Travel to Gangtey

Drive over the dramatic Dochu La mountain pass admiring the views as you travel to the Phobjikha Valley. Visit Gangtey Gompa, the only Nyingmapa monastery in the region and explore Gangtey village and the surrounding valley.

DEPARTURES

2018 DATES			
13 Apr - 06 May	£5,490	02 Nov - 25 Nov	£5,190
12 Oct - 04 Nov	£5,190		
2019 DATES			
12 Apr - 05 May	£5,990	01 Nov - 24 Nov	£5,690
11 Oct - 03 Nov	£5,690		

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

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £4,590 (Kolkata - Kolkata)
- Single room from £1,340
- Tipping paid locally US\$155

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WHAT WE DO:

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The creation of your perfect itinerary is a combination of your ideas and desires, and our expertise. Your dedicated tailor-made consultant will listen to what you are looking for, make recommendations and work with you to create a holiday that fulfils all your wants and needs.



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You can travel around your destination any way you like, be it by bullet train, plane or car, but we will always provide you with your own vehicle and driver to make sure that you get the most out of your time exploring. This way you can stop where and when you like.

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Asia is home to a wealth of different people and cultures, each offering their own characteristic and delicious cuisines. Tasting the local food is a way of getting to the heart of a culture, and we know the best areas to eat and the finest restaurants. We can ensure you get to try all the regional specialities on your trip with us.



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There is no better way to really experience your destination than with your very own local expert. Not only will you learn more about the sights and culture but you will get the inside knowledge on local life. And we only use the best guides, the ones who are both passionate and knowledgeable about their country.



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BOOKING MADE EASY

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- Flexible Private Tours
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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.

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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 wendywutours.co.uk/before-you-go/booking-conditions.

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.



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



STOPOVERS & EXTENSIONS

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

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When you book another tour with us within four-weeks of returning home, we'll give you a £200pp discount.

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Wendy Wu Tours Limited,
Ground Floor, Cottons Centre,
Cottons Lane, 47-49 Tooley St,
London, SE1 2QG

Tel: 0800 988 7888
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